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EMCresearch.com

- FR: EMC Research
- DT: May 21st, 2014

RE: Citywide Poll of Parents/Guardians of SPS K-3rd Children

METHODOLOGY

This memo is based on a live telephone survey of 1,301 interviews of parents/guardians with children in Kindergarten through 3^{rd} grade enrolled in Seattle Public Schools conducted March 4-23, 2014. The margin of error for the overall results is ±2.7 percentage points at a 95% confidence interval. Interviews were conducted in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Somali and Cantonese and a third (32%) of the respondents were born outside of the United States. The interviews were distributed across the city based on the entire universe of K-3rd SPS families, as follows:

23% in SE Seattle	23% in NW Seattle	
20% in SW Seattle	19% in NE Seattle	16% in Central Seattle
43% in South Seattle	42% in North Seattle	

KEY FINDINGS

Parents think every child should have the opportunity to go to high quality preschool.

- There is near universal agreement that "every child should have the opportunity for high quality preschool regardless of family income." (96% Agree)
- Most (90%) also agree that "government should help families pay for high quality preschool."
- Respondents with the lowest incidences of out of home preschool or daycare and the lowest household incomes are the most vocal that every child should have an opportunity to go to preschool.

About one third of SPS K-3rd Grade parents reported putting their kids in preschool full time (at least 6 hours a day 5 days a week), but respondents identifying as Latino/Hispanic, Black/African-American and parents living in lower income communities were less likely to report sending their children to preschool.

 Just over two thirds of parents who did not use outside home care for their child indicated that they would have been interested high quality preschool for their child if it had been available and affordable.

Parents believe that high quality preschool provides rich social and learning opportunities.

- Almost all parents agree (95%) that "children learn to interact with others at a high quality preschool, which is important in preparing them for Kindergarten."
- Most (89%) also agree that "children who go to a high quality preschool are more likely to do better in elementary school."

Parents believe high standards and specialized training at preschool is important.

- Nearly all agree (93%) that "preschools should be required to have teachers trained in early childhood education."
- Most (88%) also agree that "we should set standards so every parent knows whether a
 preschool is high quality."

Parents overwhelmingly support a citywide high quality preschool program.

- Nearly all (90%) support a city funded preschool program that would "give every family access to high quality preschool by setting standards and requiring preschools to provide teaching that helps kids learn and grow."
- Support for a citywide preschool program is strongest among:
 - Lower income households (94%) and parents in areas with lower income schools (92%)
 - Respondents who identify as Hispanic or African-American (93%)
 - Parents in Southeast and Northwest Seattle (92%)

The most important factors to parents when choosing a high quality preschool are safety, impressions when visiting the facility, licensing, and convenience, although all 14 factors tested are important to a majority of parents.

- Among parents whose children did not go to preschool/daycare, safety is also the top factor, however, these parents place higher importance on affordability and availability of subsidies than do parents using preschool/daycare.
- Parents who did not use any out-of-home care are also more likely than parents using
 preschool/daycare to agree that we should set standards and that we need a ratings system.



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Telephone Survey of Parents/Guardians March 4 – March 23, 2014 n=1301; Margin of Error of + 2.7 percentage points EMC Research #14-5164

All numbers in this document represent percentage (%) values, unless otherwise noted. Please note that due to rounding, percentages may not add up to exactly 100.

Hello, my name is ______ from EMC Research, and I'm conducting a survey on behalf of the City of Seattle to get parents' input on ways to improve city policies that affect early education and child care. Your answers are strictly confidential and will be used for research purposes only.

For this call I need to speak to a parent or guardian of any children in the household who is best able to speak about their children's educational experience. Would that be you?

1.	Language of Interview	
	English	88
	Spanish	5
	Somali	1
	Vietnamese	5
	Cantonese	2
3.	Gender (RECORD FROM OBSERVATION)	
	Male	26
	Female	74
4. How many children are you the parent or guardian of? (RECORD NUMBER		CONTINUE TO Q5)
	1 child	22
	2 children	52
	3 children	16
	4 or more children	10
	(Zero/Refuse) → TERMINATE	-
5.	If Q4=1 Is your child in Kindergarten through Third Grade at a Seattle public If Q4>1 How many of those children are in Kindergarten through Third Grad	
	1 child	75
	2 children	22
	3 children	3
	4 or more children	1
	(Zero/Refuse) → TERMINATE	-

[Child Care Profile]

[IF Q5>1] For the next few questions, please answer based on your youngest child who is currently in elementary school. I'd like you to think back to your family's childcare situation the year before your child started Kindergarten. You might have used daycare, childcare, preschool, head start, eceap (E cap), step ahead, a nanny, or friends and family to care for your child.

[IF Q5=1] I'd like you to think back to your family's childcare situation the year before your child started Kindergarten. You might have used daycare, childcare, preschool, head start, E cap, step ahead, a nanny, or friends and family to care for your child.

6. Did your child attend preschool, head start, E cap, or a step ahead program? (If needed: Is that yes, preschool or yes, head start, or a step ahead program?)

Yes, preschool, head start, E cap, step ahead program	84
No	15
(Don't know/Not sure)	1
(Refused) → TERMINATE	-

(IF Q6=Yes, ASK Q11) (IF Q6=No/Don't know, GO TO Q7) (IF Q6=Yes, DISPLAY CHILDCARE INSERT = 1, "Preschool")

7. Was your child cared for by a daycare or other childcare outside the home on a regular basis?

Yes	45
No	53
(Don't know/Not sure)	1
(Refused)	0

(IF Q7=Yes, GO TO Q11) (IF Q7= No/Don't know/Refused, GO TO Q8) (IF Q7=Yes, DISPLAY "daycare or childcare" FOR CHILDCARE INSERT)

8. Was your child cared for by a parent, a family member, friends, a neighbor, an au pair, or a nanny on a regular basis?

Yes	83
No	16
(Don't know/Not sure)	1
(Refused)	-

 What was the primary reason your child did not attend preschool, daycare, or childcare? (PROMPT AFTER FIRST RESPONSE: Is there another reason that your child did not attend preschool, daycare, or childcare? TAKE UP TO 2 RESPONSES)

Wanted to stay at home	35
Too Expensive	30
Didn't need to	8
We lived in another country	5
There was no option	5
None in the area	3
No transportation	1
My child went to Headstart	1
Other	14
Don't know	11
No Answer	1

10. If high quality preschool had been available and affordable, would you have been interested in it for your child?

Yes	69
No	28
(Don't know/Not sure)	3
(Refused)	-

(IF Q10=Yes, GO TO Q20. IF Q10= No/Don't know/Refused, GO TO Q38)

If your child went to more than one location in the year before Kindergarten, please answer based on the most recent experience.

11. How many days in an average week did your child attend (CHILDCARE INSERT)?

1	1
2	3
3	15
4	23
5	57
6	0
7	0
(Can't recall at all)	1
(Refused)	0

(IF Q11=1 – 4 OR 8 VARIABLE "DAYS"=1) (IF Q11=5 – 7 OR 9 VARIABLE "DAYS"=2) 12. How many hours per day did your child go to (CHILDCARE INSERT)?

1	1
2	3
3	17
4	21
5	6
6	12
7	5
8	20
9	9
10	4
11	0
12	1
(Can't recall at all)	2
(Refused)	0

(IF Q12=1-7 OR 98 VARIABLE "HOURS"=1) (IF Q12 IS 8 – 24 THEN VARIABLE "HOURS"=2)

(IF DAYS=1 AND HOURS =1, ASK Q13) (IF DAYS=1 AND HOURS=2, ASK Q13) (IF DAYS=2 AND HOURS=1, ASK Q13) (IF DAYS=2 AND HOURS=2, SKIP TO INTRO TO Q14)

13. For the other hours in a typical week, was your child cared for at home, at some other outside of the home care, or a combination of the two?

At home	75
Outside of the home care	9
A combination of the two	15
(At the same facility but it wasn't preschool)	1
(Don't know/Don't remember)	1
(Refused)	0

(RESUME ALL)

14. Was the (CHILDCARE INSERT) located in a private home, at a center, at a school or church, or was it somewhere else?

Private Home	13
Center	33
School	32
Church	16
Somewhere else	6
(Can't Remember)	0
(Refused)	0

18.

15. At (CHILDCARE INSERT), was your child grouped with children roughly the same age, or were all children of all ages grouped together?

Grouped with children roughly the same age	83
All children of all ages played together	17
(Don't Remember)	0
(Refused)	0

16. Did the (CHILDCARE INSERT) have a structured daily program with a variety of specialized learning activities?

Yes	94
No	4
(Don't know)	1
(Refused)	-

17. Did the (CHILDCARE INSERT) use a dual language immersion approach or speak the same language you speak at home? (IF YES, clarify "was it that they spoke the same language as you speak at home, that it was dual language immersion, or both?"

Yes, Spoke same language	73
Yes, dual language immersion	12
(Both)	2
No	12
(Don't know/Not sure)	1
(Refused)	-
How much did you pay for (CHILDCARE INSERT) per month? Was it	
Less than \$500 per month	42
More than \$500 but less than \$1,000	30
More than \$1,000 but less than \$1,500	16
More than \$1,500 but less than \$2,000	3
More than \$2,000 but less than \$2,500	0
More than \$2,500	0
(Don't Remember)	6
(Refused)	3

19.	What were the primary reasons you chose that (CHILDCARE INSERT)? (PROMPT AFTER FIRST RESPONSE:
	Is there another reason that you chose that (CHILDCARE INSERT)? TAKE UP TO 3 RESPONSES)

Being close or convenient to home or work	38
Being recommended by people I trust/Reputation	21
Having a structured daily program/Specialized learning activities	11
Quality of the education	9
Affordability	7
I liked the teachers	6
More language exposure/Bilingual	5
Open the hours that I needed	5
Having availability/Openings	5
Academic preparation/Getting them ready for the next level of education	4
It's good/Liked it (gen.)	4
Being coop/community-based	4
Being Montessori education/Liked the learning philosophy	4
Developing social skills	3
Observing the preschool room and having a good feeling about it	3
Having a small class or group size	3
Having individualized care/Catering to special needs	3
It is connected to the daycare/preschool	3
Being caring/Giving child attention	2
Having preschool teachers with college degrees or specialized training	2
Having more cultural exposure/More diversity	2
Religious based	2
Outdoor based activities	1
Having subsidies or other financial help available	0
Teaching your child about your family/cultural background	0
Other	8
Don't know	3
No Answer	1

[Facility/Provider Choice Factors]

Now, regardless of what kind of childcare situation you had in the year before Kindergarten, I'd like to ask you about factors that might be important in choosing a high quality preschool. For each, use a scale of one to ten where one means that factor is not at all important in choosing a high quality preschool and ten means that factor is extremely important in choosing a high quality preschool. You can use any number on the scale. (REPEAT AFTER ACH UNTIL UNDERSTOOD: Again, one means that factor is not at all important in choosing a high quality preschool and ten means that factor is extremely important in choosing a high quality preschool.

	Not at a	ll an imp	ortant fa	actor			An ext	tremely i	mportan	nt factor	(Don't	
SCALE	: 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Know)	Mean
RANDO	OMIZE)											
20.	Having bot	h before	e and afte	er presch	ool care	available	2					
	15	5	4	3	10	5	6	12	8	30	2	6.47
21.	Affordabili	ty										
	1	1	2	2	10	6	12	21	10	35	1	7.93
22.	Being reco	mmende	ed by peo	ople I tru	st							
	1	0	1	2	7	5	13	23	13	35	1	8.17
23.	Observing	the pres	chool roo	om and h	naving a g	ood feel	-	t it				
	0	0	-	0	4	2	6	16	13	58	1	9.04
24.	Being close			o home o								
	1	0	1	1	5	5	13	24	14	35	1	8.27
25.	Having a si		-									
	1	1	1	2	7	8	17	25	15	24	1	7.88
26.	Having pre					-		-			-	
	1	1	2	2	7	7	15	20	11	33	2	8.01
27.	Open the h				_			45		- 4		
	1	1	2	1	7	3	8	15	11	51	1	8.50
28.	Having a st			-				-			4	0.62
	0	0	1	1	4	5	10	19	16	44	1	8.63
29.	Having sub 16		r other fii 5		elp availa 12		8	10	-	25	2	F 07
		7		4	12	4	0	10	5	25	Z	5.97
30.	Having a d 3	iverse st 2	aff 4	3	14	8	15	19	8	22	2	7.13
	-							19	0	22	Z	7.15
31.	Teaching y 10	our child 7	l about y 8	our fami 6	ly's cultu 18	ral back 9	ground 9	10	5	18	1	5.84
						5	5	10	5	10	1	5.04
32.	Being licen	ised by t 1	ne State	of Washi 1	ington 7	4	8	11	8	56	1	8.59
	-				,	т	0	**	5	50	-	0.00
33.	Providing a	a sate en -	vironmei 0	nt O	1	1	2	5	7	83	1	9.59
	_		0	0	-	Ŧ	۲	5	,		-	5.55
	ANDOMIZE)										

34.	What factors do you think are most important in a high quality preschool program? (PROMPT AFTER
	FIRST RESPONSE: Are there any other factors that you think are most important in a high quality preschool
	program? TAKE UP TO 3 RESPONSES)

Having a structured daily program/Specialized learning activities	27
Being safe	24
Having preschool teachers with college degrees or specialized training	22
Quality education (General)	12
I liked the teachers	11
Being caring/Giving child attention	10
Encouraging environment	9
Having a small class or group size	8
Affordability	7
Having better academic preparation	6
Developing social skills	6
Being close or convenient to home or work	6
Having a play based approach	5
Having more cultural exposure/More diversity	5
Teachers having good interaction with kids	4
Having more outdoor activities	3
Having good communication with parents	3
Having individualized care	2
Open the hours that I needed	2
Being clean	2
Encouraging creativity/artistic skills	2
Good (Unspecified)	2
Having good facility	2
Good literacy teaching/More reading	1
Being recommended by people I trust	1
Proper nutrition/Better food	1
Availability/Openings	1
Bilingual	1
Teachers getting satisfactory pay	1
Observing the preschool room and having a good feeling about it	1
Attention to math	1
Having a diverse staff	0
Having subsidies or other financial help available	0
Teaching your child about your family/cultural background	0
Other	5
Don't know	3
No Answer	2

(ASK Q35 IF Q6=1 OR 2, OR Q7=1; ELSE GO TO Q38) (IF Q6=1 OR 2, DISPLAY CHILDCARE INSERT = 1, "Preschool") (IF Q7=1, DISPLAY "daycare or childcare" FOR CHILDCARE INSERT)

[Facility/Provider Ratings/Performance]

35. Moving on, for the [CHILDCARE INSERT] your child went to, would you say you are satisfied or dissatisfied with the job the [CHILDCARE INSERT] did overall? (IF Q4 is more than 1) Like before, please answer based on your youngest child currently in elementary school. (IF SATISFIED: Would you say very or somewhat satisfied? IF DISSATISFIED: Would that be very or somewhat dissatisfied?)

Very satisfied	78
Somewhat satisfied	16
Somewhat dissatisfied	4
Very dissatisfied	1
(Don't Know)	1
(Did Not Apply)	0
(Refused)	0

36. And for the [CHILDCARE INSERT] your child went to, would you say you are satisfied or dissatisfied with the job they did preparing your child for Kindergarten? (IF SATISFIED: Would you say very or somewhat satisfied? IF DISSATISFIED: Would that be very or somewhat dissatisfied?)

Very satisfied	74
Somewhat satisfied	19
Somewhat dissatisfied	4
Very dissatisfied	2
(Don't Know)	1
(Did Not Apply)	0
(Refused)	0

37.	What would you change about or add to your child's (CHILDCARE INSERT) experience? (PROMPT AFTER FIRST RESPONSE: What else would you change about or add to your child's (CHILDCARE INSERT)					
	experience? TAKE UP TO 2 RESPONSES)	10				
	Don't change anything/It's good	13				
	More intense academics/More demanding learning	7				
	Longer hours	6				
	More structured activities	5				
	Better literacy program	5				
	More affordable	4				
	More language exposure/Bilingual	4				
	More diversity	3				
	More outdoor activities	3				
	Better teachers	2				
	Smaller class sizes	2				
	More math related teaching	2				
	Bigger facility	2				
	Better location/proximity to home	2				
	More school days	2				
	More field trips	1				
	More staff per student	1				
	More music exposure	1				
	Develop social skills	1				
	More play based education	1				
	More one-on-one learning	1				
	Having good communication with parents	1				
	Less staff turnover	1				
	Better food	1				
	Put my child in school at an earlier age	1				
	Teachers getting satisfactory pay	1				
	Handling of children that act out/Bully's	0				
	My child did not have that experience/Didn't attend at that time	0				
	More creative environment	0				
	Other	5				
	Nothing/Don't Know	23				
	No Answer	13				

[Attitudes about Preschool]

(RESUME ASKING EVERYONE)

Now I'm going to read you some statements people have made about preschool programs. For each one I read, please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with that statement. If you're not sure, please just say so.

(AFTER EACH UNTIL UNDERSTOOD: Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with that statement?)

	Strongly	Somewhat	Somewhat	Strongly	(Don't	
SCALE: agree		agree	disagree	disagree	Know/Refused)	
(RAN	DOMIZE)					
38.	Every child should have	the opportunity for hi	igh quality preschool	regardless of fami	ly income	
	85	11	1	1	1	
39.	Children learn to intera Kindergarten	ct with others at a higl	n quality preschool, w	vhich is important	in preparing them for	
	73	21	3	1	1	
40.	Preschools should be re	equired to have teache	ers trained in early ch	ildhood education		
	63	30	5	1	1	
41.	We should set standard	ds so every parent kno	ws whether a presch	ool is high quality		
	49	39	6	2	3	
42.	Government should hel	p families pay for high	quality preschool			
	59	32	5	3	2	
43.	Children who go to a hi	gh quality preschool ai	re more likely to do b	etter in elementar	ry school	
	62	27	5	2	4	
44.	We need to have a ratir preschool and a poor or		ols so parents can tell	the difference be	tween a good	
	38	39	14	5	3	

(END RANDOMIZE)

[Informed Support]

45. The City of Seattle is considering a new program to fund voluntary, high quality preschool. The program will give every family access to high quality preschool by setting standards and requiring preschools to provide teaching that helps kids learn and grow. It would be free for the poorest families with a sliding payment scale for higher income families. Given what you've heard, do you think this voluntary high quality preschool program would be a good idea or a bad idea for the City of Seattle? (IF GOOD IDEA: Do you think it is a very good or just a good idea? IF BAD IDEA: Do you think it is a very bad or just a bad idea?

Very good	70
Good	20
Bad	3
Very bad	2
(Don't Know)	5
(Refused)	0

Now I'd like to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes only. Again, this survey is completely anonymous; this project is about education in your community and your answers to these questions are very important.

46. For statistical purposes, what year were you born? [RECORD YEAR: Valid Range 1910-1996] IF "Refused" ==> "Are you..." [READ RESPONSES FOR Q47]

(IF Refused = Ask Q47; ELSE SKIP TO Q48)

47. Are you...

18-24 (1990-1996)	1
25-34 (1980-1989)	17
35-44 (1970-1979)	54
45-54 (1960-1969)	24
55-64 (1950-1959)	2
65+ (1910-1949)	1
(Refused)	1

(RESUME ASKING EVERYONE)

48.	[IF Q5>1] Do your children qualify for free or reduced lunch? [IF Q5=1] Does your child qualify for free or reduced lunch?	
	Yes	30
	No	68
	(Don't know)	2
	(Refused)	0
49.	Are you registered to vote?	
	Yes	82
	No	17
	(Don't know/Refused)	1

50. How many total people, including adults and children, live in your household? (RECORD NUMBER)

1	0
2	6
3	20
4	47
5	16
6 or more	11
(Refused)	1

51. What is the last grade you completed in school? (Read only if necessary)

Some grade school	3
Some high school	5
Graduated High School	11
Some College/Trade/Technical School	17
Graduated College/Bachelors/BA/MA/Trade/Technical school	45
Graduate/Professional/PhD/JD	18
(Don't Know/Refused)	1

52. We are trying to gather opinions of people from a variety of backgrounds. Which of the following best describes your ethnicity? If I do not read your ethnicity please say so: (READ RESPONSES)

schoes your ethnicity: In ruo not read your ethnicity please say so. (NEAD NESP ONSES)	
Caucasian or White	60
Hispanic or Latino	9
Asian or Asian American	14
Pacific Islander	1
Black or African American	11
Native American	1
(Middle Eastern)	1
(Multiracial)	2
(Other)	0
(Refused)	1

- 53. What country were you born in? (Precoded List)
- 54. And finally, for statistical purposes only, is your annual household income before taxes above or below thirty five thousand dollars?

Above \$35,000	71
Below \$35,000	23
(Don't know)	3
(Refused)	3

(IF Q54 = 2) Would that be less than \$10,000, at least \$10,000 but less than \$15,000, at least \$15,000 but less than \$25,000, or at least 25,000 but less than 35,000?

(IF Q54=3 OR 4) Would that be less than \$10,000, at least \$10,000 but less than \$15,000, at least \$15,000 but less than \$25,000, or at least 25,000 but less than 35,000, at least 35,000 but less than 50,000, at least 50,000 but less than 75,000 at least 75,000 but less than 100,000, or more than 100,000?

Less than \$10,000	5
\$10,000-\$14,999	4
\$15,000-\$24,999	7
\$25,000-\$34,999	8
\$35,000-\$49,999	7
\$50,000-\$74,999	12
\$74,000-\$99,999	11
\$100,000+	38
(Don't know/Refused)	9

We may do some follow up research on this issue in the future. Would it be okay to contact you for that research?

Yes	89
No	11

THANK YOU!