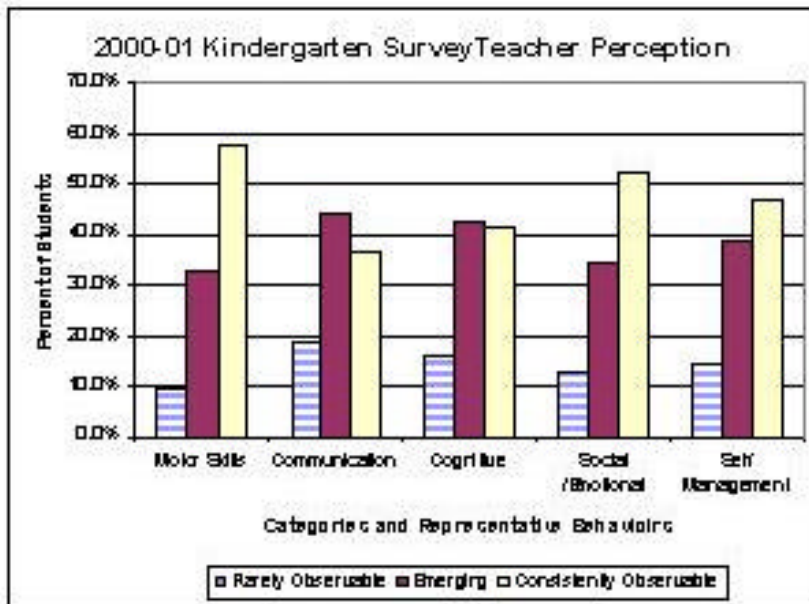


Children Ready to Succeed in School

A major long-term goal of Community Empowerment is for children to arrive at school healthy and ready to succeed. The child care, family support and health efforts funded by Community Empowerment contribute positively to children's developmental abilities when they enter kindergarten. Community Empowerment Areas have worked to expand the availability of quality early childhood services and developmentally appropriate child care/preschool programs.



In general, the survey shows that the communication and cognitive skills of children are rated lower by teachers than motor, social/emotional or self-management skills. This data provides us with an opportunity to ask further questions and continue the dialogue about good assessment for young children.

Based on a Kindergarten teacher perception survey designed by the Department of Education. Used for the first time in 2000.

Progress Towards Results from Community Empowerment Areas

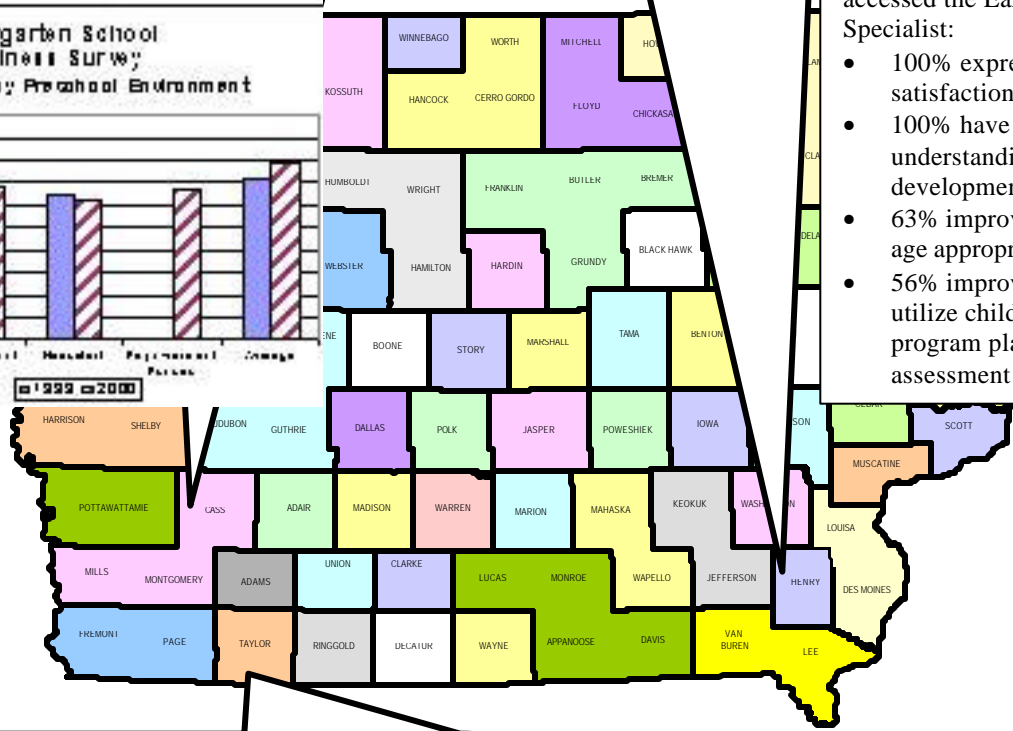
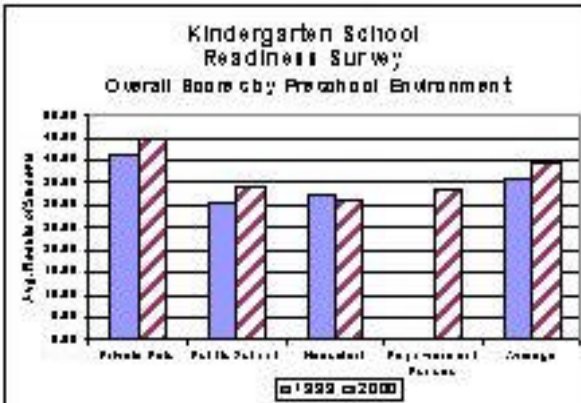
Children Ready to Succeed in School

Boost4Families (Cass, Mills and Montgomery Counties)

Local Identified Need/Priority: Preschool services
Goal: Ensure access to preschool services for at-risk children, 3-5
Local Indicator: Measurement of skill level/readiness of children entering kindergarten
Strategy(ies): Preschool tuition grants for at-risk children and public awareness of the importance of preschool

Healthy Henry County Empowerment

Local Identified Need/Priority: Increase the capacity of child care providers
Goal: 90% of workshop participants will be retained as providers by 6/30/02
Local Indicator: Increased knowledge and job satisfaction, through post-training self-reports
Strategy(ies): Provide training and an Early Childhood Specialist for provider education



- Of the 75 providers trained or had accessed the Early Childhood Specialist:
- 100% express greater job satisfaction
 - 100% have improved understanding of child development
 - 63% improved knowledge of age appropriate activities
 - 56% improved in the ability to utilize child observations in program planning and assessment

Taylor County Empowerment

Local Identified Need/Priority: Preschool available for every child
Goal: Preschool will be available to all children by FY 06
Local Indicator: % of children entering Bedford, Lenox, and New Market schools with quality preschool experience
Strategy(ies): Grants to preschools to expand capacity to serve children
 (Grants began in Lenox FY'99 and began in Bedford in FY'01)

