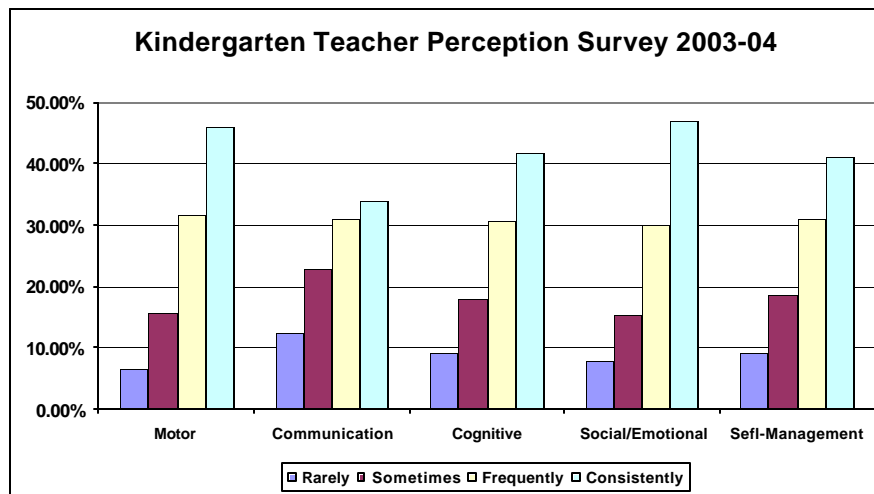


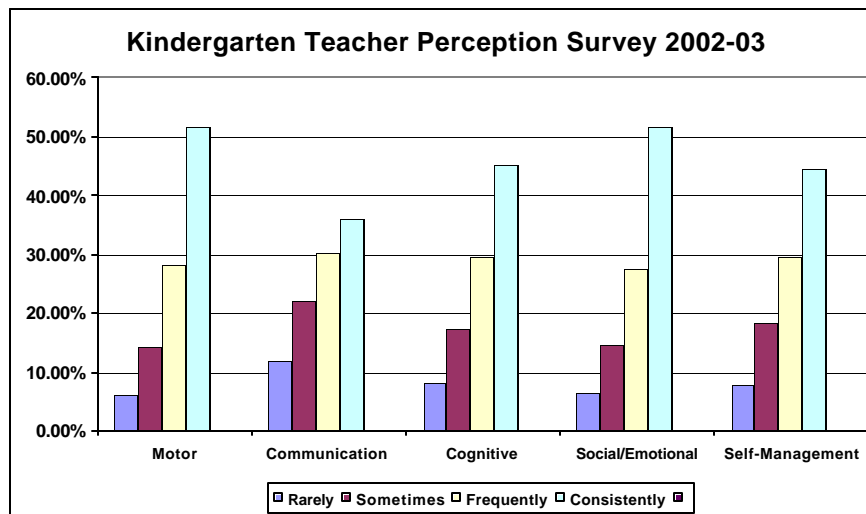
State Results and Indicators

Children Ready to Succeed in School

This year, Governor Vilsack and Lt. Governor Pederson announced early childhood as part of their Leadership Agenda. Specifically, they proposed the goal, 90% of children have a quality preschool experience. The Governor also launched the Iowa Learns Council through Executive Order 30, which includes appointments to an early childhood team. The team chair is a coordinator for a local Community Empowerment area and staff support is being provided by the Department of Education as well as members of the Community Empowerment Technical Assistance team. The focus is on addressing the means to have quality early childhood and preschool available to children and their families so that children are ready to succeed in school.



The Kindergarten Teacher Perception Survey for 2003-04 indicates some potentially disturbing trends that will need to be monitored. Although the shift in percentages is not great it appears there is slight movement from the top categories (consistently observable and frequently observable) into the lower categories in all of the representative behaviors. The communication, cognitive, and self-management skills of children entering kindergarten are rated lower by their kindergarten teachers than the motor and social/emotional skills.



High quality, preschool experiences based on effective research are the essential foundation for achieving successful early learners. Assessing the skills of early learners provides some information about the adequacy of resources invested in an early care, health and education system achieve the two goals necessary for successful early learning experiences:

- to support the development and continuous improvement of high quality programs and services that help all young children to be successful, and
- to maximize individual child learning and developmental outcomes.