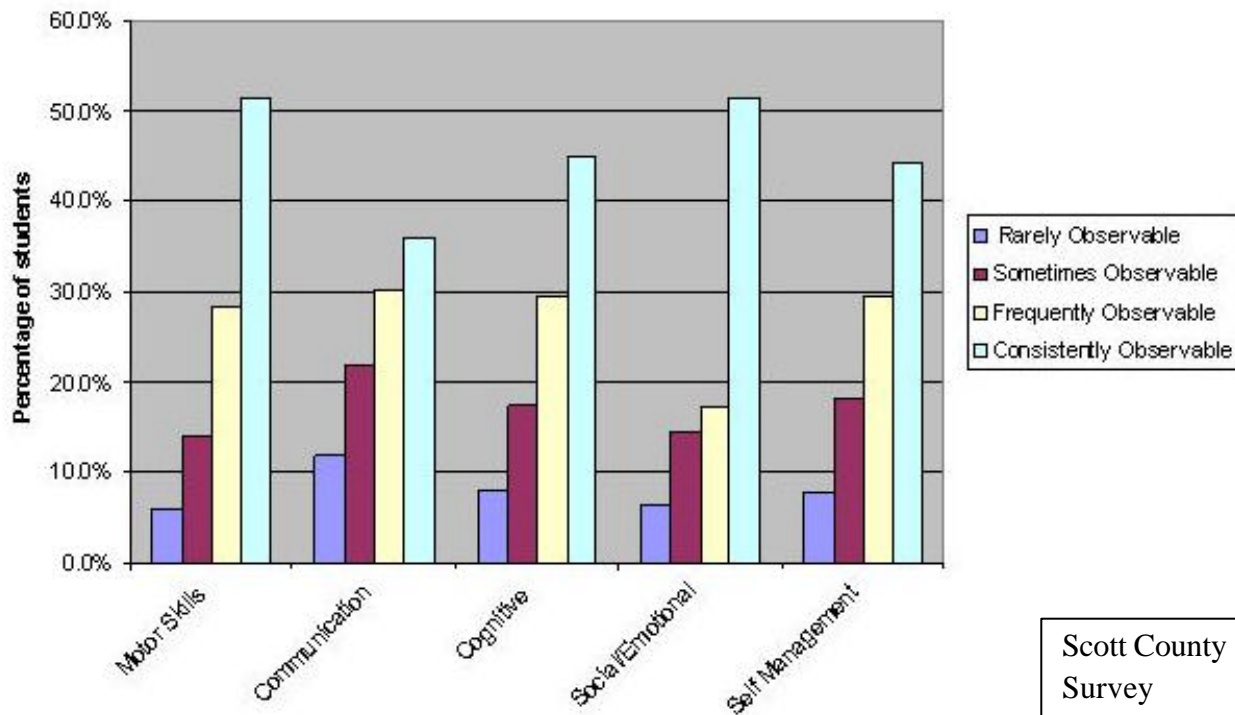


Children Ready to Succeed in School

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.

2001-2002 Kindergarten Survey - Teacher Perception Percentages



Scott County Empowerment

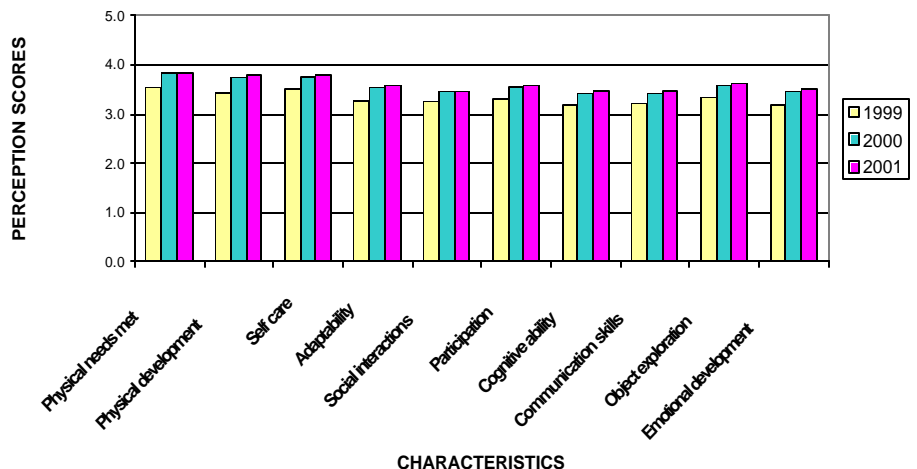
Local Identified Need/priority: Improvement of School Readiness

Goal: Provide quality environments that promote developmental skills for school readiness of children prior to entering kindergarten.

Local Indicator or Program Performance Measure: Kindergarten Readiness Survey

Strategy(ies): The strategy is coordination and expansion of resources and services in the community to build environments for young children that enable them to be physically healthy, intellectually curious, emotionally sound, and socially competent. In an effort to determine if efforts are really making a difference in the school readiness of children, all four public school

KINDERGARTEN READINESS SURVEY DATA



Progress Towards Results from Community Empowerment Areas

Children Ready to Succeed in School

Cass/Mills/ Montgomery Counties Empowerment Area (Boost 4 Families)

Local Identified Need/priority:

- Increase the availability of preschool slots in rural area
- Remove the transportation barrier for accessing preschool services
- Provide preschool staff developmental grants

Goal: To ensure access to preschool services for at-risk children ages 3 -5 by increasing the number of slots and access to transportation services.

Local Indicator or Program Performance Measure:

- Measurement of skill level/readiness of children entering kindergarten
- Percentage of kindergarten students who have attended preschool

Strategy(ies): -- Key strategies:

- Maintain and expand existing preschool programs
- Provide tuition grants to parents of low-income/at-risk children
- Create new preschool programs
- Develop transportation resources
- Provide continuing education to preschool staff

Black Hawk County Empowerment (Cedar Valley Promise)

Local Identified Need/priority:

Increase early intellectual stimulation of very young

Goal: 75% of parents in the *Every Child Reads* program will read to their children weekly and can identify age appropriate activity for their children.

Local Indicator or Program Performance Measure:

Increase early intellectual stimulation as measured by the amount of time parents read to their children.

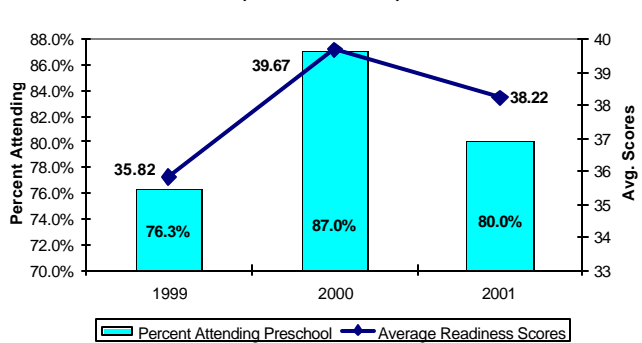
Strategy(ies): Using the *Every Child Reads* pilot program in Black Hawk County, training was provided to child care providers, parents, and teachers. A greater emphasis was placed on reading to very young children at home visits by the Early Head Start Hand-in-Hand participants as well as HOPES families. Over 300 Early Care and Education providers received training in *Every Child Reads*, as well as 110 parents. Analysis by the Center for Business and Social Research at Loras College, showed that child care providers report that they have made significant changes in the way they develop children's language, reading and writing skills. At the same time, over 6,000 new children's books were distributed to child care providers, 1,000 books to parents, and well over 2,000 books were given to children.

Results:

Reading to children was not a habit for families in the programs. Since implementing the strategies:

- In 2001, all 115 enrolled families, who had 175 children, reported reading to their children on a *weekly* basis.
- In 2002, all 121 enrolled families, who had 182 children, reported reading to their children on a *daily* basis and participated in developmentally appropriate learning

Preschool Attendance & Readiness Scores
(Boost 4 Families)



Ringgold County Empowerment Area

Local Identified Need/priority: Need for Developmentally Appropriate Preschool

Goal: Provide comprehensive services and family support to children prior to school entry so as to better prepare children for school expectations & success.

Local Indicator or Program Performance Measure:

- % of children in Kindergarten with preschool experience
- % of teachers and staff receiving training due to Empowerment funding

Strategy(ies): By working collaboratively, all groups refer families and students appropriately to the service that will best meet the needs of the preschooler. All children are integrated in play and activities that are provided. Providers and teachers are encouraged to be trained and to implement appropriate learning environments for young children. The DECA (Devereux Early Childhood Assessment Program) was used in each center, after training was provided. The cost per child was certainly well below the average cost of \$4000 per child.

Preschool Attendance
& Teacher Training
(Ringgold County)

