



FIRST 5 YOLO KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT SURVEY 2010 FINDINGS

Prepared by Davis Consultant Network

In 2009, First 5 Yolo (F5Y), in cooperation with the five county school districts, initiated the first universal county-wide survey of parents registering their children for kindergarten. In Yolo County, the five districts correspond with the four incorporated cities and rural Capay Valley. The purpose of the Kindergarten Enrollment Survey (KES) is to chronicle changes in school readiness indicators across time and across the county. The survey has questions related to health insurance, dental care, and education of primary caregiver, at-home reading behaviors, child behavior and parental social connectedness. The survey was administered for the second time in 2010 using the same set of questions with minor format changes. (Sample survey can be found in Appendix.)

Key 2010 new findings, many which reflect the economic downturn and increased child and family stress.

1. While overall county-wide return and question response rates improved this year, response rates from Davis and Esparto dropped.
2. County-wide, 33.1% of families reported that their child is enrolled in Medi-Cal, a 7% increase over 2009 data and an indicator of increased numbers of families with reduced income. Davis remains the only district with greater than 50% of children covered by employer-based health insurance.
3. While 13% of registering kindergarten students had not yet seen a dentist (a 1.2% increase since 2009), of those that did see a dentist, more children were seeing a dentist before age 4.
4. Eighty-four percent of households reported reading with their child three or more times per week, with 44.4% reporting reading daily.
5. Seventy percent reported that their child had attended a preschool program. Of those 45% attended state preschool, 43% attended private preschool and 18.5% attended Head Start.
6. A greater percent of families are reporting social isolation, particularly in Woodland and West Sacramento, in 2010 than in 2009.
7. Eighty-six percent of families agree that they live in a neighborhood that is a “great place to raise young children”, with highest ranking in Davis at 90.1%, Winters at 85.5% and Esparto at 83.3%. County-wide this represents a decrease of 3.8% from 2009 ratings.
8. A significant increase of families in 2010 reported that their child could “rarely or never” make smooth transitions (15.2%) from what was reported in 2009 (1.7%). This appears to indicate increased family stress.

Sample

First 5 Yolo provided surveys to all public elementary schools. They were available in English, Spanish and Russian. A total of 1394 surveys were returned from all five districts in 2010. This represents an overall county-wide 65.1% return rate, with highest return rate from Winters and Woodland and lowest from Esparto and Davis. (See Table 1.) Davis demographics differ greatly from other school districts, with higher average household income and parental educational attainment. The low DJUSD 2010 return rates may account for some of the reported county-wide changes between 2009 and 2010.

School District	# Returned	Enrolled	Return Rate
Esparto Unified	24	84	28.6%
Winters Joint Unified	110	118	93.2%
Davis Joint Unified	202	547	36.9%
Woodland Joint Unified	582	682	85.3%
Washington Unified	444	666	66.7%
Unidentified	32	na	na
OVERALL	1394	2093	66.6%

Table 1: F5Y 2010 Kindergarten Enrollment Survey Return Rate

Health Insurance Status

For the second year, fully 97.3% of families reported that their child has health insurance. The number of children reported with no health insurance was 37, which represents 2.7% of the sample. This is much lower than the state average of 4.1% reported by the 2009 California Health Information Survey.

In 2010 there is a reported increase of 7% enrolled in Medi-Cal. This demonstrates shifts from other publically subsidized programs, but also a reduction of 4% from privately purchased and employer provided health insurance (see Table 2). This reflects both increases in qualifying low-income families and enrollment efficiencies.

While access to health insurance was fairly consistent across districts, type of insurance varied widely, particularly regarding employer-based coverage (see Table 3). Esparto reported the lowest rate of employer-based insurance (29.2%) and Davis the highest (78.8%), with West Sacramento, Winters and Woodland each averaging 43-46%.

Does your child currently have health insurance?				
	2009	2010	Change	2010 #
No Insurance	2.7%	2.7%	0.0%	37
Medi-Cal	26.1%	33.1%	+7.0%	455
Healthy Families	12.2%	9.3%	-2.9%	128
Other public program	1.5%	1.2%	-0.3%	17
Employer-based	51.0%	48.4%	-2.6%	665
Privately purchased	6.6%	5.2%	-1.4%	71
Answered Question				1,373
No Response ¹				21

Table 2: Reported Child Health Insurance by Type and Year. (Source: 2009 and 2010 KES)

	Davis n=202	Esparto n=24	Washington n=444	Winters n=105	Woodland n=529
No Insurance	2.5%	4.2% (1)	3.2%	2.9%	1.7%
Medi-Cal	12.1%	41.7%	37.0%	30.5%	36.3%
Healthy Families	1.0%	12.5%	7.5%	18.1%	11.6%
Other Public Program	0.0%	4.2%	.9%	0.0%	2.3%
Employer-based	78.8%	29.2%	45.6%	44.8%	43.3%
Privately Purchased	5.6%	8.3%	5.9%	3.8%	4.8%
No Response	2.0%	0.0%	0.7%	4.5%	0.9%

Table 3: Child Health Insurance by Type and by District (Source: 2010 KES)

¹ All reported percentages by response are based upon those who answered the question. The “No Response” percentages in this report represent surveys with no answer marked for that question and are calculated based on the total number of returned surveys.

First Dental Exam

First 5 Yolo has invested in improving availability of dental services for young children and increased awareness of importance of early dental care. The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry recommends the first visit by a child’s first birthday. The 2010 findings brought good and bad news. A disappointing increase was found in the percentage of registering kindergarten students who had not seen a dentist, but more children were seeing a dentist before age 4.

Age of Child at Time of First Dental Exam			
	2009	2010	Change
Never Been	11.7%	13.0%	+ 1.3%
Before 1	1.4%	1.9%	+ 0.5%
1 - 3 yrs	57.5%	58.6%	+ 1.1%
4 - 6 yrs	29.5%	26.4%	-3.1%
<i>No Response</i>	1.1%	2.0%	+ 0.9%

Table 4: Comparison of 2009 and 2010 Reported Age of First Dental Exam (Source 2009 and 2010 KES.)

	Davis	Esparto	Washington	Winters	Woodland	ALL
Not Yet Been	11.5%	4.2%	12.6%	10.2%	14.2%	13.0%
Before First	2.0%	4.2%	2.7%	0.0%	1.7%	1.9%
Ages 1-3	65.5%	50.0%	53.8%	63.8%	58.4%	58.6%
Ages 4-6	21.0%	41.7%	30.9%	25.9%	25.6%	26.4%
<i>No Response</i>	1.0%	0.0%	1.6%	1.8%	2.6%	2.0%

Table 5: Reported Age of First Dental Exam by School District (Source: 2010 KES)

Parental Educational Attainment

The literature on student achievement consistently has shown that parent education is important in predicting children’s achievement.² KES asked parents “What is the highest level of school completed by your child's primary caregiver at home?”

Here, the disparities between districts are great. Parents in the agricultural Western county districts had the lowest rates completing high school with Esparto reporting 39% and Winters reporting 28.6% without high school degree. The percent of college graduates without advanced degrees is in the 23-27% range for Davis, Washington, Winters and Woodland. But Davis boasts an additional 62% with graduate degrees.

² Klebanov, Brooks-Gunn, & Duncan, 1994; Haveman & Wolfe, 1995; Smith, Brooks-Gunn, & Klebanov, 1997

Level of Primary Caregiver's Educational Attainment						
	Davis	Esparto	Washington	Winters	Woodland	ALL 2010
Less than 9th Grade	2.0%	21.7%	5.3%	21.9%	10.2%	8.7%
No Diploma	5.0%	17.4%	8.7%	6.7%	10.0%	8.5%
HS Diploma	1.5%	17.4%	23.2%	26.7%	23.2%	20.6%
Some College	9.7%	39.1%	24.0%	15.2%	25.1%	21.6%
College Degree	24.5%	4.3%	27.1%	22.9%	23.4%	23.9%
Graduate Degree	61.7%	0.0%	11.6%	6.7%	8.1%	16.7%
No Response	3.0%	4.2%	7.0%	4.5%	3.8%	4.9%

Table 6: Distribution of Educational Attainment of Child's Primary Caregiver by District (Source: 2010 KES)

Family Literacy

F5Y school readiness evaluations have consistently found that children from homes where families read daily were more prepared for school success.

Eighty-four percent of households reported reading with their child three or more times per week, with 44.4% reporting reading daily. Overall 2010 rates of reported daily has declined by 8.1%, but is affected by reduction of Davis sample size. Reported daily reading is highest in Davis (79.6%) and lowest in Esparto (25%).

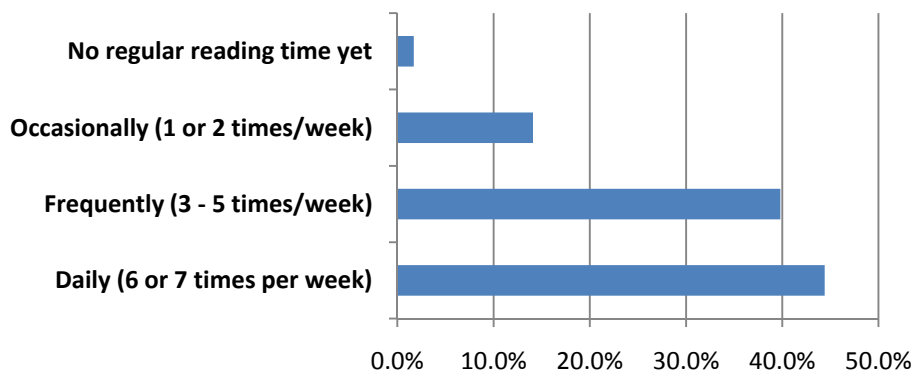


Figure 1: Reported Frequency of Reading at Home (Source: 2010 KES)

How often do you or a member of your household read or share books with your child?

	2009	2010	Change
Daily (6 or 7 times per week)	52.5%	44.4%	-8.1%
Frequently (3 - 5 times/week)	35.3%	39.8%	4.5%
Occasionally (1 or 2 times/week)	10.7%	14.1%	3.4%
No regular reading time yet	1.5%	1.7%	0.2%
No Response	23% ³	5.7%	-17.1%

Table 7: Comparison of 2009 and 2010 Reported Frequency of Reading at Home (Source 2009 and 2010 KES)

By looking at changes in reported reading frequencies by district, it can be seen that Washington Unified showed significant increases. Losses in daily reading rates were seen in all but Washington Unified. Esparto and Woodland families reported less daily reading, but overall increases in rate of frequent reading.





















	Davis			Esparto			Washington		
	2009	2010	Change	2009	2010	Change	2009	2010	Change
Daily	81.0	79.6	-1.4 % 	38.5	25.0	-13.5 % 	29.3	44.4	15.1 % 
Frequently	16.2	14.7	-1.5 % 	23.1	62.5	39.4 % 	39.7	39.7	0.0 % 
Occasionally	2.0	3.7	1.7 % 	30.8	12.5	-18.3 % 	25.9	14.3	-11.6 % 
No Regular Reading	0.8	2.1	1.3 % 	7.7	0.0	-7.7 % 	5.2	1.6	-3.6 % 
	Winters			Woodland					
	2009	2010	Change	2009	2010	Change			
Daily	81.0	79.6	-1.4% 	38.5	25.0	-13.5 			
Frequently	16.2	14.7	-1.5% 	23.1	62.5	39.4 			
Occasionally	2.0	3.7	1.7% 	30.8	12.5	-18.3 			
No Regular Reading	0.8	2.1	1.3% 	7.7	0.0	-7.7 			

Table 8: Comparison of 2009 and 2010 reported Reading Frequencies by School District (Source 2009 and 2010 KES)

³ The 2009 survey design did not indicate that there were questions on the reverse side. Those questions had much lower response rate.

Participation in Preschool

Seventy percent of families reported that their child had attended a preschool program. Overall, this rate exceeds state averages.⁴ Of those 45% attended state preschool, 43% attended private preschool and 18.5% attended Head Start. Distribution of preschool participation was uniform across the county with greater than two thirds attending from all districts. Rates were highest in Davis (75.7%) where 79.1% attended private preschool programs. (See Table 9.)

State and federally funded preschool programs have income-eligibility requirements. For a family of four, Head Start families demonstrate annual family income of less than \$22,050 and State Preschool families demonstrate annual family income of less than \$50,256. Esparto families (42.1%) and Woodland families (27.5%) reported the greatest Head Start participation rates. In Winters, Esparto and West Sacramento, over half of the children with preschool experience participated in state preschool.

Has your child attended a preschool program for at least 4 days per week? If so, in which type of program?												
	Davis		Esparto		WUSD		Winters		Woodland		TOTAL	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
State Preschool	37	24.2	12	63.2	164	53.6	52	67.5	148	41.9	436	44.9
Head Start	3	2.0	8	42.1	43	14.1	3	3.9	97	27.5	180	18.5
4-Week Summer	2	1.3	3	15.8	11	3.6	1	1.3	6	1.7	20	2.1
Private Preschool	121	79.1	5	26.3	127	41.5	23	29.9	123	34.8	417	42.9
No Reported Preschool ⁵	49	32.0	5	26.3	138	45.1	33	42.9	176	49.9	422	30.3
Any Preschool	153	75.7	19	79.2	306	68.9	77	70.0	353	66.7	972	69.7
<i>n</i>	202		24		444		110		529		1394	

Table 9: Reported Preschool Experience by Type and School District (Source 2010 KES)

Parental Social Connectedness

The KES asked two questions related to social connectedness: availability of family and friends to turn to in times of need; and satisfaction with neighborhood in which they are living.

⁴ The 2009 American Community Survey reported that statewide 49.3% of children ages 3-4 years were enrolled in any preschool. This figure is far below figures reported in April 2011 article "[Latino Access to Preschool Stalls after Earlier Gains](#)", [New Journalism on Latino Children](#), "53% of Latino children attended preschool in 2005, according, compared with 70% of Whites and 69% of Blacks," and "The most recent gauge in 2009 shows that Latino preschool enrollments have fallen to 48% of 4 year-olds. "<http://ihd.berkeley.edu/Latino%20preschool%20decline%20-%20NOLA-NJLC-Brief-2011-FINAL.pdf>

⁵ The data in this row include both those that did not answer the question and those that did not have preschool. The system for entering survey will be modified for future KES analysis.

The survey asked: “All parents and guardians need support at times. When you need help, support or guidance, do you have family, friends or someone you can turn to?” 95.6% of families answered the question. Of those, 74% reported “most of the time” (comparable to the 74.2% in 2009); 18.8% reported “sometimes” (down from 21.4% in 2009) and 7.2% reported “rarely or never.” This represents 90 families reporting lack of social network, a significant increase from the 4.5% reported in 2009. Highest rates of social isolation were reported in West Sacramento (8.6%) and Woodland (7%). Lowest rates of isolation were reported in the western county, in Winters and Esparto (see Table 10 and Figure 2).

All parents and guardians need support at times.												
When you need help, support or guidance, do you have family, friends or someone you can turn to?												
	Davis		Esparto		Washington		Winters		Woodland		2010 TOTAL	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Most of the Time	163	80.7	17	70.8	312	70.3	73	66.4	361	68.2	926	74.0%
Sometimes	24	11.9	6	25.0	80	18.0	29	26.4	97	18.3	236	18.8%
Rarely or Never	11	5.4	0	0.0	38	8.6	4	3.6	37	7.0	90	7.2%
Skipped Question	4	2.0	1	4.2	14	3.2	4	3.6	34	6.4	57	4.4%
	202	100	24	100	444	100	110	100	529	100	1309	104.4%

Table 10: Availability of “Someone to Turn to for Support” by District (Source 2010 KES)

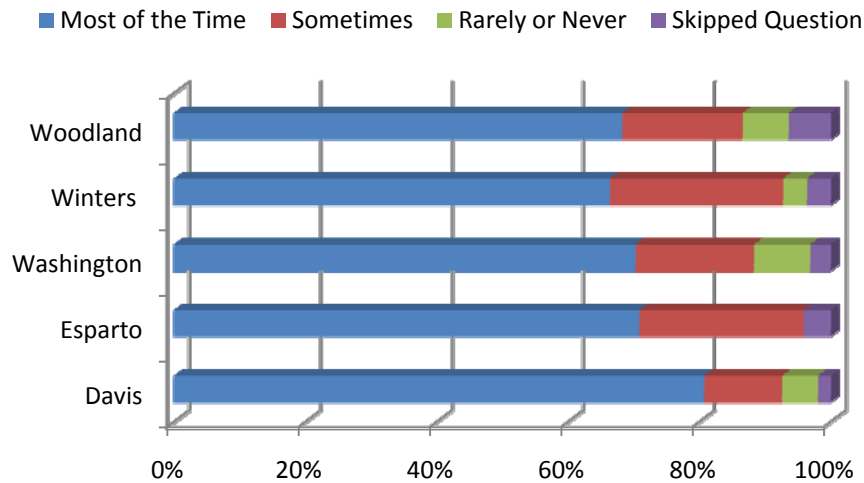


Figure 2: Percent of Families “Having Someone to Turn To” by School District (Source: 2010 KES)

When asked to report degree of agreement with the statement “We live in a great neighborhood for raising young children”, over 80% of families in Davis, Esparto, Winters or West Sacramento were likely to agree or strongly agree (See Table 11 and Figure 3). County-wide the percentage of families that answered the question as “agree” or “strongly agree” with that statement dropped from 90.2% in 2009 to 86.4% in 2010 (see Table 12).

We live in a great neighborhood for raising young children.												
	Davis		Esparto		Washington		Winters		Woodland		TOTAL	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Strongly Agree	140	69.3	10	41.7	189	42.6	54	49.1	210	39.7	636	48.5
Agree	42	20.8	10	41.7	169	38.1	40	36.4	199	37.6	498	38.0
Neutral	8	4.0	2	8.3	50	11.3	8	7.3	71	13.4	148	11.3
Disagree	2	1.0	1	4.2	10	2.3	1	0.9	9	1.7	25	1.9
Strongly Disagree	1	0.5	0	0.0	3	0.7	0	0.0	1	0.2	5	.4
Skipped Question	9	4.5	1	4.2	23	5.2	7	6.4	39	7.4	82	5.9
	202		24		444		110		529		1394	

Table 11: Agreement with Statement “We live in a great neighborhood for raising young children.” (Source 2010 KES)

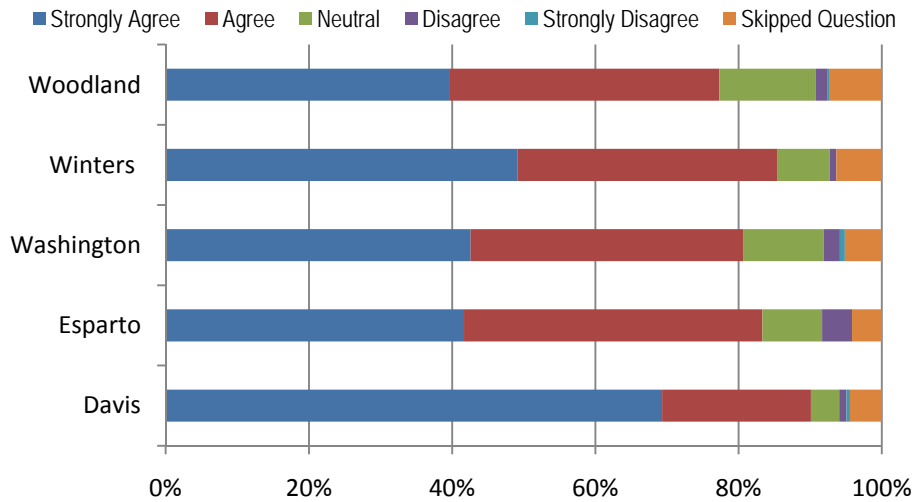


Figure 3: Agreement by School District with Statement “We live in a great neighborhood for raising young children.” (Source 2010 KES)

<i>We live in a great neighborhood for raising young children.</i>			
	2009	2010	Change
Strongly Agree	56.4%	49.0%	-7.4%
Agree	33.8%	37.4%	3.6%
Neutral	8.3%	11.3%	3.0%
Disagree	0.7%	1.9%	1.2%
Strongly Disagree	0.7%	0.4%	-0.3%

Table 12: Comparison of 2009 and 2020 response rates for degree of agreement with statement: “We live in a greate neighborhood for raising young children.” (Source 2009 and 2010 KES)

Child Emotional Resilience

Two questions addressed children’s emotional resilience, one regarding their ability to transition from one activity to another, and the second regarding the child’s ability to self-sooth when upset.

A greater percentage of families reported difficulties with transitions this year, with a significant increase of families reporting that their child could rarely or never make smooth transitions from 1.7 to 15.2% (see Table 12).

Daily transitions are one type of transition for which there is more parenting advise than scientific research. Some research⁶ is focusing on the child’s need for control and how a child experiences loss when they are asked to stop doing something they enjoy. Most recommendations for easing transition point to the role the parent or caregiver plays in assisting the child anticipate and prepare for transitions. This includes providing a plan, giving warnings of when activities will change, watching the child’s body language and acknowledging feelings. This dramatic increase may be a symptom of parental distraction and lack of attention to preparing their child for transitions.




<i>Does your child move from one activity to the next with little difficulty, such as from playtime to mealtime?</i>				
	2009	2010	△	
Most of the time	72.5%	67.9%	-4.6%	
Sometimes	25.8%	16.9%	-8.9%	
Rarely or never	1.7%	15.2%	13.5%	
<i>n responding</i>	593	1273		

Table 13: Parental report of child’s ability to make transitions. (Source 2009 and 2010 KES)

⁶ Vogler, P., G.Crivello, M. Woodhead. *Early childhood transitions research: A review of concepts, theory, and practice*, http://www.bernardvanleer.org/Early_childhood_transitions_research_A_review_of_concepts_theory_and_practice, 2008

Improvements were seen in the percent of families reporting that their child was able to calm down when upset.


<i>When upset, can your child calm down within 15 minutes?</i>			
	2009	2010	△
Most of the time	88.6%	90.6%	2.0% 
Sometimes	10.1%	8.0%	-2.1%
Rarely or never	1.3%	1.4%	0.1%
<i>n responding</i>	701	1319	

Table 14: Parental Report of Child's Ability to Self Sooth. (Source 2009 and 2020 KES)

Conclusions

Based on two years of county-wide surveys of parents registering their children for public kindergarten, it can be concluded that child health insurance access and preschool participation remain higher than the norm in California. Reading at home has seen some losses, but remains a frequent occurrence in 84% of homes. More families and children are qualifying this year for low-income programs, are feeling isolated and are struggling with transitions.

While the rural Western County communities of Winters and Esparto both demonstrate low income families with lower than average educational attainment, the families in those communities are more likely to have seen a dentist, to find their neighborhood a great place to raise young children, to have a strong social support network.

Davis families on the average have extraordinary educational attainment and report the highest rate of jobs that provide health insurance. Most of these Davis families are likely to read frequently to their children and to enroll their children in private preschool.



<p>Kindergarten Registration School Readiness Survey</p>

(To be completed by child's parent or guardian at time of kindergarten registration.)

This anonymous survey will be used to look at school readiness trends in Yolo County over time.

1. **Today's month _____ and year _____**
2. **School name where your child will attend kindergarten _____**
3. **Does your child currently have health insurance? (Check one)**
 - No insurance
 - Medi-Cal
 - Healthy Families
 - Other public program (ex: Healthy Kids)
 - Employment-based
 - Privately purchased
4. **During the past 12 months, was there any time when your child had no health insurance at all?**
 - No
 - Yes
5. **How old was your child at the time of his/her first dental exam? (Check one)**
 - My child has not yet been to a dentist
 - Age 4-6 years old
 - Age 1-3 years old
 - Before first birthday
6. **What is the highest level of school completed by your child's primary caregiver at home? (Check one)**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 9th grade <input type="checkbox"/> 9th – 12th Grade, no diploma <input type="checkbox"/> High School graduate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Some College, no degree <input type="checkbox"/> College Degree <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate Degree
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OVER ➡

APPENDIX

7. **All parents and guardians need support at times.** When you need help, support or guidance, do you have family, friends or someone you can turn to?

- Most of the time
- Sometimes
- Rarely or never

8. **We live in a great neighborhood for raising young children**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

9. **How often do you or a member of your household read or share books with your child?**

- Daily** (6 or 7 times per week)
- Frequently** (3 – 5 times/ week)
- Occasionally** (1 or 2 times per week)
- No regular reading time yet**

10. **Has your child attended a preschool program for at least 4 days per week?**

- No** (*please skip to question 11*)
- Yes. Please check which type of program your child attended and how long:**
 - State Preschool _____(# years attended)
 - Head Start _____(# years attended)
 - 4-week Summer Program _____(# years attended)
 - Private Preschool _____(preschool name/s) ____(# years attended)

11. **Does your child move from one activity to the next with little difficulty, such as from playtime to mealtime?**

- Most of the time
- Sometimes
- Rarely or never

12. **When upset, can your child calm down within 15 minutes?**

- Most of the time
- Sometimes
- Rarely or never

THANK YOU

Please return this anonymous survey with your registration materials.

It will be separated from registration materials and be independently analyzed to compare trends by school district.

For more information, you may contact Francesca Wright, Davis Consultant Network at 530.220.4049 or Francesca.Wright@gmail.com