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Study Indicates that Preschool Children Perform Better in Literacy Assessment in SEEDS Classrooms

Research Conducted by Kidango with 385 Children saw Improvements in Five Literacy Areas

OAKLAND, Calif (Dec. 4, 2018) – Research conducted by [Kidango](http://www.kidango.org), a Bay Area nonprofit dedicated to giving California’s youngest learners the opportunity to succeed, suggests that preschool-age children show strong development in five key literacy indicators when placed in a SEEDS classroom.

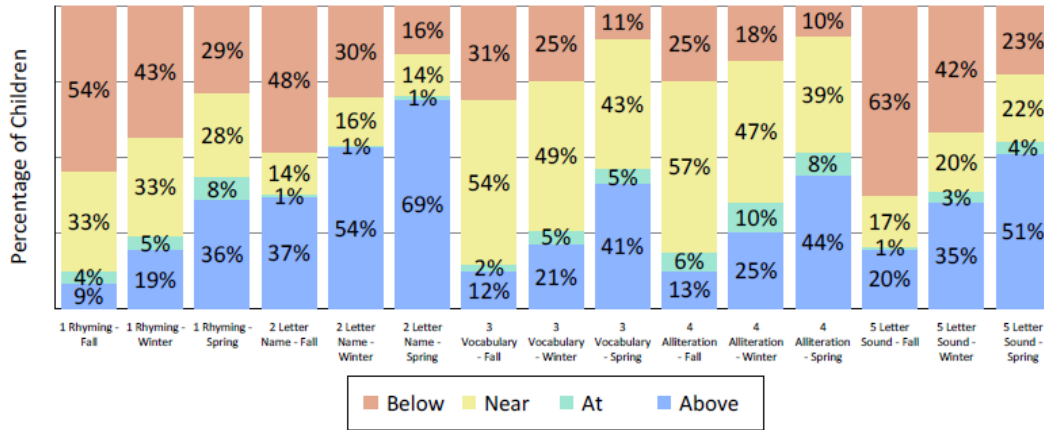
SEEDS of Learning is a relationship-based professional development program that provides educators, parents and caregivers with strategies to build social, emotional, language and literacy skills in young children, so they are ready to succeed in kindergarten. Less than half of low income students enter kindergarten with these skills, so the need for a strong and comprehensive support program is clear. SEEDS areas are: Sensitivity; Encouragement; Education; Development of skills through doing; and Self-image support.

“It’s highly encouraging to see sizeable improvements in all five literacy areas,” said Dr. Pepijn van Houwelingen, vice president of research and policy at Kidango. “These results add weight to previous research we have conducted that showed a similar impact in SEEDS classrooms, and help us in our goal of gaining a deeper understanding of early childhood development in language and literacy. We continue to strive to have 100% of children at or above the threshold level, and all the research we conduct will push us towards achieving that.”

The study tracked the progress of 385 children in Kidango preschool SEEDS classrooms. All children were in the setting for between two and three assessment periods; there are three during the course of a year. Early literacy development was tracked using Individual Growth and Development Indicators (IGDIs), a nationally-recognized assessment. The five areas tracked with IGDIs are: Picture Naming; Rhyming; Sound Identification; Comprehension; and Alliteration.

4 yr olds Percentage of Children by Threshold Status

Only Includes Children Assessed in All Assessment Periods



This chart tracks the threshold status of the children in each of the five literacy areas throughout the three assessment periods. Every area saw improvements as more of the children reached or exceeded the threshold level; in some cases, almost 90% of the children were near or above it.

“We’re happy, but not satisfied,” said Scott Moore, CEO of Kidango. “Whilst these results are certainly promising, we won’t rest until every child that walks through our doors leaves above the threshold level.”

Although these results are useful from an instructional perspective and provide good feedback for teachers, they are not yet statistically significant as there is no control group to compare this to. Kidango will be continuing this study to track the impacts of SEEDS on different groups of children.

More information on this study and previous Kidango research can be found [here](#).

About Kidango

Kidango is an early learning nonprofit committed to setting every child on a path to thrive in kindergarten and in life. We believe that every child has unlimited potential if we support our children, families, and communities with the right opportunities and resources. As the largest child care provider in the San Francisco Bay Area, we provide 4,000 children with safe, healthy, nurturing environments and relationships, so that every child has the social, emotional, and academic skills they need to learn, grow and realize their potential. For more information, visit www.kidango.org.