



*Effective Substance Abuse and
Mental Health Programs
for Every Community*

High/Scope Perry Preschool Program

The High/Scope Perry Preschool Program (High/Scope) utilizes an active learning approach to educating children, imparting skills that will support their development through school and into young adulthood. Based on more than 40 years of scientific research, it provides teachers and caregivers with a blueprint for daily routine, classroom and playground organization, and teacher-child interaction, all designed to create a warm, supportive learning environment. In addition, this learning environment encourages independent thinking, initiative, and creativity. High/Scope's goals are for young children to—

- Learn through active involvement with people, materials, events, and ideas
- Become independent, responsible, and confident—ready for school and ready for life
- Learn to plan and execute activities, then talk with other children and teachers about what they have done and what they have learned (Plan-Do-Review)
- Gain knowledge and skills in important content areas including language and literacy, initiative and social relationships, creative representation, movement, music, mathematics, and logical thinking

Every day, the program offers one-on-one adult attention, assures children that they can choose interesting things to do, and gives children a sense of control over themselves and their surroundings.

PROVEN RESULTS*

Compared to control group, at age 27, former High/Scope program children group had:

- 63% fewer habitual criminals (five or more lifetime arrests)
- 68% fewer arrests for drug dealing
- 26% fewer adult welfare or other social services recipients
- 31% high school or GED graduation rate
- Nearly twice as many home owners
- Three times as many individuals earning \$2,000 or more per month (1992 dollars)
- Significantly higher achievement and literacy scores

INTERVENTION

Universal

Selective

Indicated



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
Center for Substance Abuse Prevention
www.samhsa.gov

Outcomes

More than 40 years of scientifically based research by the High/Scope Perry Preschool Program has found that adults born into poverty who participated in a high-quality, active learning preschool program at ages 3 and 4 have a greater chance of experiencing a more positive adulthood than individuals who do not.

By age 27, one-fifth as many program group members had been arrested five or more times and only one-third as many had ever been arrested for drug dealing. In addition, program participants had achieved higher earnings and property wealth, and greater commitment to marriage. Over participants' lifetimes, the public is receiving an estimated \$7.16 for every dollar originally invested.

INTENDED POPULATION

The High/Scope approach is designed for all children regardless of income or risk factors, and has been successfully implemented in both urban and rural communities in the United States and around the world. The High/Scope preschool approach is used in public and private half- and full-day preschools, nursery schools, Head Start programs, child care centers, home-based child care programs, and special needs programs.

BENEFITS

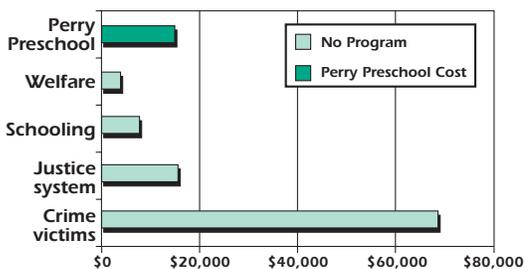
- Empowers children by encouraging them to initiate and carry out learning activities and make independent decisions
- Empowers parents by bringing them into full partnership with teachers by supporting their child's development
- Empowers teachers by providing them with systematic in-service curriculum training, supportive curriculum supervision, and observational tools to assess children's development

HOW IT WORKS

The High/Scope approach incorporates five elements that blend practical teaching and classroom experience with studies on how infants and children learn and develop.

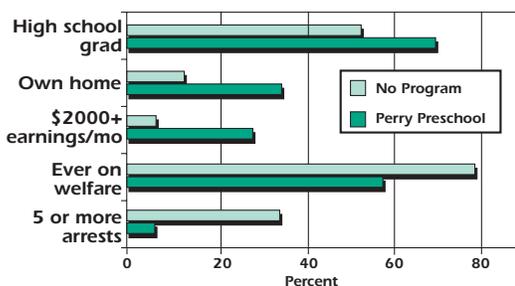
- Active learning: Children learn best from activities they plan and carry out themselves.
- Adult-child interaction: Teachers observe and interact with children at their level to discover how they think and to encourage each child's initiative and learning activities.
- Learning environment: Staff extend the principles of active learning into the room by arranging and labeling interest areas. This allows children to independently find, use, and return the materials they need to carry out their chosen activities.
- Daily routine: Staff maintain a schedule of events to provide daily consistency and predictability for both children and adults. A daily Plan-Do-Review process gives children the opportunity to choose activities, thereby developing initiative, a sense of responsibility, problem-solving ability, social cooperation, and individual competence.
- Assessment: Teachers regularly record factual notes about each child's behaviors, experiences, and interests. Based on careful and direct observation, they can plan experiences that will encourage children's growth and development.

Comparison of societal payments for services provided to or related to non-program group v. cost of High/Scope Perry Preschool program



High/Scope Perry Preschool Study of preschool program and non-program participants at age 27.

High/Scope Perry Preschool study; major findings at age 27



High/Scope Perry Preschool Study of preschool program and non-program participants at age 27.

IMPLEMENTATION ESSENTIALS

Proper training is essential to the implementation of a preschool program based on the High/Scope educational approach. High/Scope offers extensive training programs for adults in its educational approach for children of all age and development levels:

- **Workshops**—Designed for individuals who have little or no prior training in the High/Scope educational approach or a specific curriculum topic.
- **Training Courses**—Programs in preschool curriculum, infant-toddler curriculum, and adult training for individuals with prior training in High/Scope educational approach.
- **Advanced Courses**—Recommended for those who have taken High/Scope curriculum and/or training courses; include a wide range of content areas (literacy, math, movement and music, etc.), and processes (multiage settings, mentoring, bilingual settings, etc.).
- **Seminars**—Reflective engagement with other experienced educators led by a High/Scope facilitator.

Classes are taught onsite at a center or school, at High/Scope's headquarters in Ypsilanti, MI, or at the High/Scope Discovery Center in Gretna, LA. High/Scope has two demonstration preschools, one located on the campus of the High/Scope headquarters, and the other at the Discovery Center.

Training participants can also earn college degree credits for High/Scope training, or even earn an associate or master's degree with a specialization in the High/Scope approach, through a partnership with Nova Southeastern University (NSU) in southern Florida. NSU offers onsite and distance learning courses. Contact High/Scope for more information.

Program Resources and Materials

High/Scope publishes more than 300 titles in print, audiotape, videocassette, and CD formats, which are designed to support teachers, caregivers, policy-makers, researchers, and parents by sharing High/Scope's research findings and practical curriculum strategies.

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

In 1962, the High/Scope Perry Preschool Program was initiated in Ypsilanti, MI, as a small, carefully designed research and curriculum development project to help low-income, at-risk children in the community gain a positive start at education and life through a high-quality preschool program. The High/Scope approach blends the knowledge of Jean Piaget, a Swiss psychologist who studied learning and development patterns of infants and children, with practical teaching experience in the classroom and other educational set-

HERE'S PROOF PREVENTION WORKS

tings. Long-term studies show the High/Scope approach promotes the healthy development of children and provides long-lasting benefits throughout adulthood. High/Scope continues to study Perry Preschool Project participants, tracking the life-long effects of a high-quality preschool program for children of all demographic and socioeconomic backgrounds.

EVALUATION DESIGN

The High/Scope Perry Preschool study examines the lives of 123 Blacks/African Americans born in poverty and at high risk of failing in school. At ages 3 and 4, these individuals were randomly divided into a group who received a high-quality, active learning preschool program and a group who received no preschool program. At age 27, 95 percent of the original study participants were interviewed, with additional data gathered from their school, social services, and arrest records. Subsequent group differences represent preschool program effects. Findings reported herein were statistically significant (with a two-tailed probability of less than 1 in 20). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Ford Foundation funded the age 27 phase of the study. The McCormick-Tribune Foundation is currently funding the age 40 followup.

PROGRAM DEVELOPER

David P. Weikart, Ph.D.

Dr. David P. Weikart, founder of High/Scope, developed the Perry Preschool Project in 1962 when he was director of special services for the Ypsilanti, MI, school district. He later established the High/Scope Educational Research Foundation and the High/Scope Demonstration Preschool in 1970 to continue learning, research, and program activities and to develop a teacher-training component. Today, High/Scope's mission is to seek, apply, and disseminate knowledge about education and human development, especially as it relates to the High/Scope approach as expressed in its guiding principles.

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RECOGNITION

Model Program—Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Lela Rowland Prevention Award—National Mental Health Association

Model Program—Adults and Children Together (ACT) Against Violence

“10 Best Preschools in America” —Child Magazine (Demonstration Preschool)