

Early Childhood Center (ECC) at Stuart

NORFOLK CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

SCHOOL PROFILE

159 STUDENTS, GRADE PRE-K
98% Free/Reduced Lunch
86% African-American
11% White
3% Hispanic
1% Asian

PLATO ACHIEVE NOW™ IMPLEMENTATION

- Classroom, Family Homework Model
- Grade Pre-K, Began September 2002
- 100% Home Deployment
- Reading/Language Arts and Mathematics Focus

RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS

Phonological Awareness and Literacy Screening (PALS)
High Scope Child Observation Record (COR)

RESEARCH TIME FRAME

2002-2003 School Year

PRESCHOOL STUDENTS USING PLATO ACHIEVE NOW™ MEET THE PALS BENCHMARK FOR SUM SCORE AND THE COR EXPECTED BENCHMARK GAINS FOR ALL CATEGORIES TESTED

DURING THE 2002-03 SCHOOL YEAR, ALL PRESCHOOL STUDENTS USING PLATO ACHIEVE NOW MET OR EXCEEDED THE SUM SCORE BENCHMARK ON THE SPRING PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS AND LITERACY SCREENING (PALS). SPECIFICALLY, OF THE FOURTEEN STUDENTS IN THE EXPERIMENTAL GROUP USING ACHIEVE NOW, 64% MET/EXCEEDED THE RHYME BENCHMARK, 71% MET/EXCEEDED THE BEGINNING SOUND BENCHMARK, 71% MET/EXCEEDED THE ABC UPPERCASE BENCHMARK, 100% MET/EXCEEDED THE VERBAL MEMORY BENCHMARK, 86% MET/EXCEEDED THE PRINT KNOWLEDGE BENCHMARK, 100% MET/EXCEEDED THE CONCEPT OF WORD BENCHMARK, AND 79% MET/EXCEEDED THE NAME WRITING BENCHMARK. HOWEVER, COMPARED TO THE CONTROL GROUP OF STUDENTS WHO DID NOT USE ACHIEVE NOW, THE PERCENTAGE OF EXPERIMENTAL STUDENTS WHO MET OR EXCEEDED THE BENCHMARKS WAS LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO THAT OF THE CONTROL GROUP PER TASK. SPECIFICALLY, OF THE SIXTEEN STUDENTS IN THE CONTROL GROUP, 100% MET/EXCEEDED THE SUM SCORE BENCHMARK. ADDITIONALLY, THE PERCENTAGE OF CONTROL STUDENTS WHO MET/EXCEEDED THE FOLLOWING BENCHMARKS IS AS FOLLOWS: 100% IN RHYME, 100% IN BEGINNING SOUND, 94% IN ABC UPPERCASE, 100% IN VERBAL MEMORY, 100% IN PRINT KNOWLEDGE, 100% IN CONCEPT OF WORD, AND 94% IN NAME WRITING.

SCORES ON THE HIGH SCOPE CHILD OBSERVATION RECORD (COR) SHOW THAT 100% OF THE PLATO STUDENTS MET OR EXCEEDED THE EXPECTED BENCHMARK GAINS IN ALL CATEGORIES. SCORES ON THE PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS AND LITERACY SCREENING SHOW THAT 100% OF STUDENTS MET OR EXCEEDED THE SPRING SUMMED SCORE BENCHMARK. OF THE SIXTEEN NON-PLATO STUDENTS, ONE STUDENT DID NOT MEET THE BENCHMARK GAINS IN THE CATEGORIES SOCIAL RELATIONS, CREATIVE REPRESENTATION, MUSIC AND MOVEMENT, AND LANGUAGE AND LITERACY.

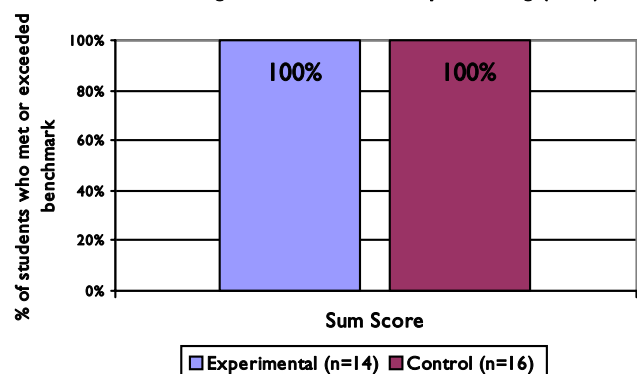
THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER AT STUART PURCHASED PLATO ACHIEVE NOW™ WITH TITLE I AND LOCAL FUNDS TO INCREASE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IN READING/LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATHEMATICS, AS WELL AS INCREASE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT. SPECIFICALLY, THE GOALS OF THE ECC AT STUART'S IMPLEMENTATION WERE: 1) FOR 70% OR BETTER OF THE PRESCHOOL STUDENTS INVOLVED IN THE PLATO PROGRAM TO REACH OR EXCEED THE END OF YEAR DEVELOPMENT RANGE ON THE PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS LITERACY SCREENING, AS PRESCRIBED BY THE NORFOLK CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND TITLE I; AND 2) FOR 70% OR BETTER OF THE STUDENTS TO REACH OR EXCEED PROFICIENCY ON THE COR MATH TEST. THE CENTER ALSO WANTED TO INVOLVE PARENTS IN THEIR CHILD'S EDUCATIONAL PROCESSES BY INVOLVING THE FAMILY IN SCHOOL-RELATED ACTIVITIES DONE AT HOME.

PRESCHOOL STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT WAS MEASURED BY THE PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS AND LITERACY SCREENING AND THE HIGH SCOPE CHILD OBSERVATION RECORD. BASED ON THE ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS, THE ECC'S GOALS WERE MET IN ALL BUT ONE AREA. SPECIFICALLY, MORE THAN 70% OF THE PRESCHOOL STUDENTS INVOLVED IN THE PLATO PROGRAM MET OR EXCEEDED THE PALS END OF YEAR DEVELOPMENT RANGE IN ALL BUT ONE TASK—RHYME. FURTHER, 100% OF THE PLATO STUDENTS MET OR EXCEEDED THE COR LOGIC AND MATHEMATICS CATEGORY.

Spring Sum Score benchmark met by preschool students

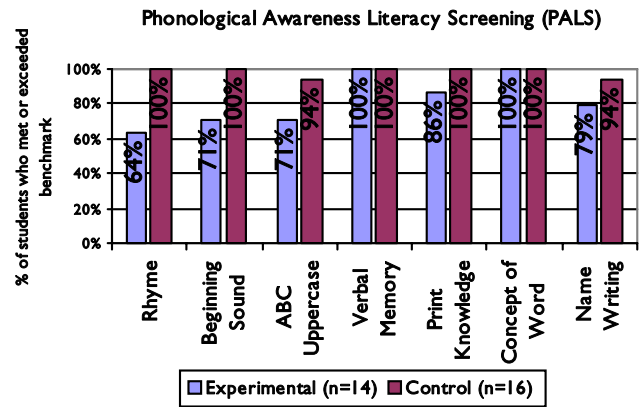
By spring 2003, 100% of preschool students using PLATO Achieve Now met or exceeded the Sum Score benchmark on the PALS. Nevertheless, 100% of non-PLATO preschool students also met or exceeded the Sum Score benchmark on the PALS.

Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS)



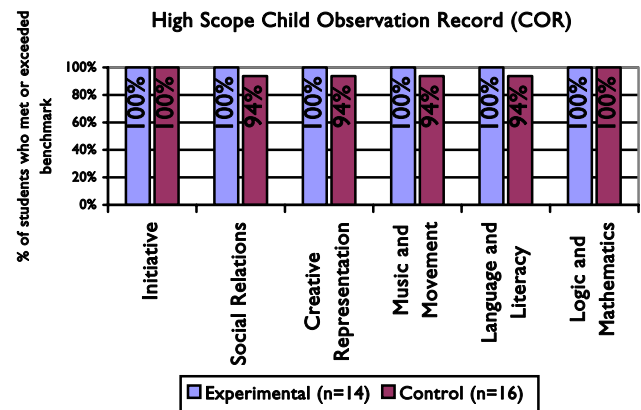
Preschool students using PLATO met PALS benchmarks in 9 out of 10 tasks

One of the goals of the ECC at Stuart’s implementation was for 70% or more of the preschool students involved in the PLATO program to meet or exceed the end of year development range on the PALS. By spring, 70% or more of the PLATO students reached or surpassed the benchmark range in all but one task— Rhyme. Nevertheless, by spring, more than 70% of the non-PLATO students met or exceeded all of the PALS benchmarks.



PLATO preschool students met expected gains in all COR categories

Another goal of the ECC at Stuart’s implementation was for 70% or more of the PLATO students to meet or exceed proficiency on the COR math test. By spring, 100% of the PLATO students reached or surpassed the expected benchmark gain in Logic and Mathematics. Further, all fourteen preschool students using PLATO Achieve Now met or exceeded the expected benchmark gains in all other tested categories of the COR. By comparison, only 1 of 16 students in the control group (non-PLATO students) did not pass the expected benchmark gains in the categories Social Relations, Creative Representation, Music and Movement, and Language and Literacy.



Early Childhood Center at Stuart Background

The Early Childhood Center at Stuart is located in the Colonial Heights section in the city of Norfolk. It serves a varied population of students from the surrounding neighborhoods as well as all parts of the city, as an open enrollment policy at the Center is governed by the needs of children and their families. The mission of ECC at Stuart is to provide a world-class educational beginning for all students through effective classroom instruction, varied learning activities, and cooperative efforts that bring students, parents, and teachers together as an educational team.

PLATO Achieve Now™ is being implemented to support Norfolk Public Schools’ and ECC at Stuart’s goals of 1) increased student achievement with a focus on Reading/Language Arts and Mathematics, and 2) increased family involvement. The Preschool implementation began in the 2002-2003 school year and is locally and Title I funded.

PLATO Achieve Now was implemented in one preschool classroom. The PLATO consultant provided program orientation for the preschool teacher at the start of the school year. Monthly professional

development sessions were held throughout the year in which program content was explored further, classroom lessons were modeled, and program materials were aligned to preschool units of study. The preschool teacher continued to use PLATO Achieve Now to reinforce curriculum content in the classroom and at home. Students took home either a reading or mathematics Achieve Now Adventure® CD every two weeks and, with their families, were encouraged to explore the learning activities contained on the disk at least 3 times a week. Students also had access to a PLATO learning center in their classroom for independent and small group practice.

Family involvement events were held four times during the school year. The initial meeting was designed to familiarize parents with the program and distribute PLATO Achieve Now materials. The second and third meetings involved parents as active learners with their children, concentrating on reading and mathematics activities. The final family event was designed to celebrate the program, receive feedback from the families, and collect materials.

Results of the preschool implementation were measured by spring administration of the Phonological Awareness and Literacy Screening and pre- and post-tests of the High Scope Child Observation Record.. Future plans for the PLATO Achieve Now program include providing teacher support in aligning program materials to individual needs, and increasing teacher knowledge of the Achieve Now Adventures. Through PLATO, access to technology has been made available in an equitable manner for all pre-kindergarten students at Early Childhood Center at Stuart. Furthermore, the PLATO Achieve Now program involves families in their children's education, links families to the school, and motivates student learning inside and outside the classroom.



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