



Welcome to Spark NH!

Dear Friend of Spark NH,

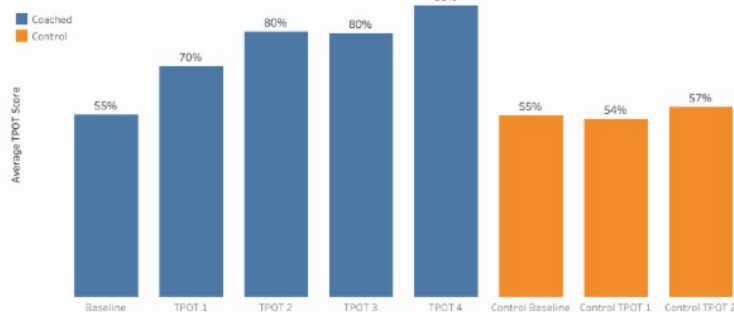
Our early learning workforce is critical to the healthy development of our children. Supporting this workforce with the professional training they need to best facilitate development is also critical.

In New Hampshire, many early educators tell us that a significant challenge they face is not only preparing children for later academic progress, but in nurturing the social and emotional skills needed to work cooperatively, manage behavior, and focus attention to tasks.

Manchester's Project LAUNCH implemented a terrific model to address this very challenge. Southern New Hampshire Services Head Start and Easter Seals Child Development & Family Resource Center in Manchester received training in the Pyramid Model, which helps early educators build skills in responsive caregiving for children with challenging behavior, and create more effective learning environments. Evaluators also collected comparison data from non-coached classrooms in demographically similar locations; this provided high quality control data.

The results have been dramatic. The coached classrooms showed significant improvement in teacher effectiveness, compared to the control classrooms that did not receive coaching.

Average TPOT Assessment scores in classrooms that received behavioral coaching were significantly higher than in the control classrooms. The TPOT is an observation tool that measures fidelity of implementation of classroom practices that address challenging behavior in the preschool classroom.

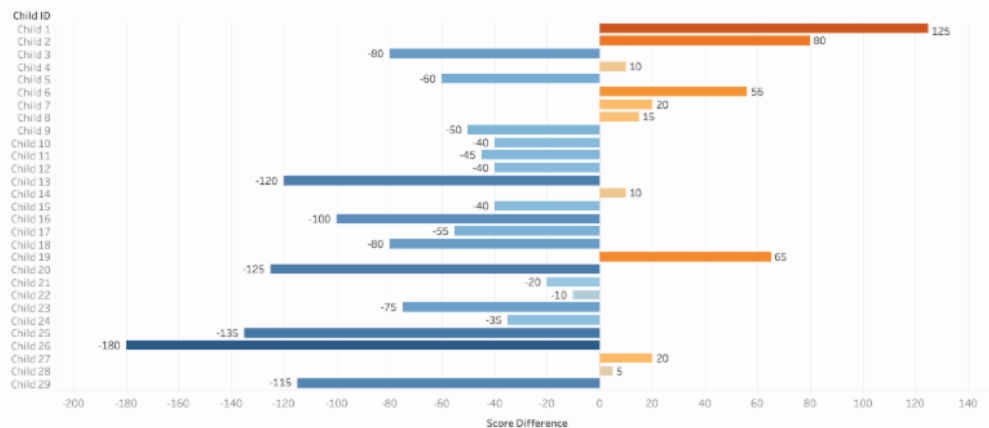


Average TPOT score by time at assessment (in months past baseline)

	Coached	Control
Baseline	55%	55%
6 months	68%	56%
7 months		42%
9 months		66%
12 months	81%	50%
15 months	83%	58%
18 months	83%	49%
21 months	85%	72%
Maintenance	78%	
24 months		38%

Project LAUNCH also tracked children's social-emotional assessment scores, as measured by the ASQ:SE for children who were identified as having behavioral or social-emotional concerns. In the last two years, 66% of those children saw improvements in their scores.

*NOTE: Lower scores indicate improvement



The project evaluation confirms evidence-based interventions can help the early education workforce be more successful and promote the healthy development of our youngest residents. Truly a win-win.

Unfortunately, federal funding for this successful intervention ended in June with only minimal private funding to continue through the next year. With such great evidence of the effectiveness of this approach, with such real impacts on children's development, we need to find ways to not only continue this work in Manchester, but ensure communities across our state can benefit from this approach. The Pyramid Model should be funded throughout the state to make it available to educators across the early childhood system.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Milliken, Esq.
Director, Spark NH

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Community of Practice Updates

Carroll County Early Childhood Coalition

No update at this time.

Claremont Learning Partnership

No update at this time.

Concord School District Safe Schools/Healthy Students

The Concord School District Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grant Initiative and Title I are offering developmentally appropriate early childhood and family engagement programming this summer. To kick off the summer season, families attended Family Fun Day, hosted by Concord Connections. Forty families enjoyed fun family activities, learned about healthy food choices, learned about area resources, ate lunch together and were given take-home bags, which included items that supported families to enjoy a safe and happy summer together. With the implementation of full-day Kindergarten this fall, Concord Schools are offering expanded summer programming, which includes early childhood programming for entering kindergarten students, as well as a parent/family presentation about helping your child to be successful in school, with a focus on early literacy. Through a collaboration with Community Action, children are able to have breakfast and lunch each day they attend the program. A parent/family survey will inform parent education throughout the coming school year.

Coos Coalition for Young Children and Families

No update at this time.

Greater Nashua Smart Start Coalition

No update at this time.

Greater Tilton Area Family Resource Center

No update at this time.

Impact Monadnock

Impact Monadnock was selected by the NH Department of Education to be a Pyramid Model Community Implementation initiative. Impact Monadnock's community collaborative will receive ongoing and intensive training, technical assistance and coaching to support Pyramid Model implementation in early childhood settings in the Monadnock region. Keene School District is enthusiastically filling the role of required school district partner, and many other community agencies made the four-year commitment, along with Monadnock United Way/Impact Monadnock, to participate on the Pyramid Model Leadership Team to develop the community's implementation plan. These agencies are: The Children's Learning Center at Cheshire Medical Center, Keene Day Care Center, Keene State College Child Development Center, Keene State College Early Childhood Education Program, Southwestern Community Services Head Start, and Winchester Learning Center. Over the four years of this award, our Leadership Team will develop plans to support leadership and infrastructure development, data collection and analysis, and sustainability of Pyramid Model practices. This award has the potential to have far-reaching impacts on children's positive social-emotional development. It will also be a key strategy to support quality improvement in community child care/preschool programs and other early childhood settings.

Project LAUNCH Manchester

See cover letter.

Somersworth Ready Together Early Childhood Coalition

Somersworth Ready Together is focused on making a difference for children and families in Somersworth by fulfilling our mission to improve early childhood development, ensuring language development and supporting family engagement to promote school readiness to succeed. The Coalition's Community Awareness Work Group is planning to engage local business and organizations in promoting every day learning moments in public spaces (e.g. signage in grocery stores, Born Learning Trails, Thinkscapes, etc.). The Coalition has recently been chosen by the Department of Education to participate as the iSocial Community Collaborative to implement the Pyramid Model. We have launched a Facebook page to reach families with information about local resources and early childhood development and bring together community and school based early educators to increase communication and alignment and through our promotion are up to 70 "likes" already! Lastly, the Kindergarten Teachers are gearing up for the second year of our Kindergarten Teacher Family Visit Program. In its first year, the Program resulted in 62% of the families of incoming kindergarteners meeting one on one with their child's teacher, which improved parent-teacher communication throughout the school year.

Team Up Rochester

No update at this time.

Thrive Laconia

Wednesday, June 20, 2018, Thrive Laconia hosted Celebrating Laconia Children, Families and Community. Laconia has a long history of collaborative efforts to promote the well-being of children, family and community. The kick-off of the new Children, Families, and Community Coalition, with the purpose to ensure healthy children, families and community through a shared vision and coordinated strategies, was attended by about 40 local professionals representing a wide array of disciplines and sectors. Cathy McDowell from the Coos County Coalition for Children and Families joined the event to share her community's experience and success in improving positive outcomes for children. The coalition kick-off event has run on public access TV a total of 96 times across the three LRPA channels and Live Stream, and will continue to run in the near future. DVD copies of the event are also available.

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Contact info@sparknh.org

Please Consider Joining a Committee

Spark NH has four committees that are open to the public: Policy, Data, Evaluation, and Work Force and Professional Development. To find the latest information about our committees and important documents such as meeting minutes, agendas and presentations please visit our website at www.sparknh.com/council-and-committees.

About Spark NH:

Spark NH is the Governor-appointed Early Childhood Advisory Council for the State of New Hampshire. Our mission is to provide leadership that promotes a comprehensive, coordinated, sustainable early childhood system that achieves positive outcomes for young children and families, investing in a solid future for the Granite State.

Contact Us:

Call us at 603-226-7900 or email us at info@sparknh.org

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