



FHSA Research Committee

March Webinar

What Do I Need To Know About
Research and Why?



**RESEARCH
REVEALS
SOLUTIONS**



Overview

- Review major references to research in the Head Start Reauthorization Act
- Discuss implications
- Access references and resources
- Discuss ways to get involved in research



Research

The new “THEY”



Section 637. Definitions -

20. The term “principles of scientific research” means principles of research that—

- (A) apply rigorous, systematic, and objective methodology to obtain reliable and valid knowledge relevant to education activities and programs;
- (B) present findings and make claims that are appropriate to and supported by methods that have been employed; and
- (C) include, as appropriate to the research being conducted—

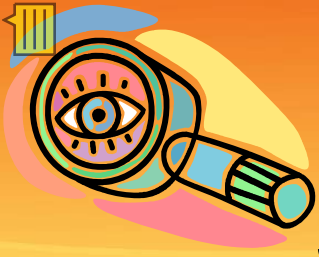




Section 637. Definitions - continued

- (i) use of systematic, empirical methods that draw on observation or experiment;
- (ii) use of data analyses that are adequate to support the general findings;
- (iii) reliance on measurements or observational methods that provide reliable and generalizable findings;
- (iv) strong claims of causal relationships, only with research designs that eliminate plausible competing explanations for observed results, such as, but not limited to, random assignment experiments;





Section 637. Definitions - continued

- (v) presentation of studies and methods in sufficient detail and clarity to allow for replication or, at a minimum, to offer the opportunity to build systematically on the findings of the research;
- (vi) acceptance by a peer-reviewed journal or critique by a panel of independent experts through a comparably rigorous, objective, and scientific review; and
- (vii) consistency of findings across multiple studies or sites to support the generality of results and conclusions.





Section 637. Definitions - continued

21. The term professional development ...

(iv) advancing their understanding of effective instructional strategies

that are—

(I) based on **scientifically valid research**; and

(II) aligned with—

(aa) the Head Start Child Outcomes Framework developed by the Secretary and, as appropriate, State early learning standards; and

(bb) curricula, ongoing assessments, and other instruction and services, designed to help meet the standards described in section 641A(a)(1);



Section 637. Definitions - continued

- (22) The term "**scientifically-based reading research**" –
- (A) means the application of rigorous, systematic and objective procedures to obtain valid knowledge relevant to reading development, reading instruction, and reading difficulties; and
 - (B) shall include research that--
 - (i) employs systematic, empirical methods that draw on observation or experiment;
 - (ii) involves rigorous data analyses that are adequate to test the stated hypotheses and justify the general conclusions drawn;
 - (iii) relies on measurements or observational methods that provide valid data across evaluators and observers and across multiple measurements and observations; and
 - (iv) has been accepted by a peer-reviewed journal or approved by a panel of independent experts through a comparably rigorous, objective, and scientific review.



Section 637. Definitions - continued

(23) The term “**scientifically valid research**” includes applied research, basic research, and field-initiated research in which the rationale, design, and interpretation are soundly developed in accordance with **principles of scientific research**.



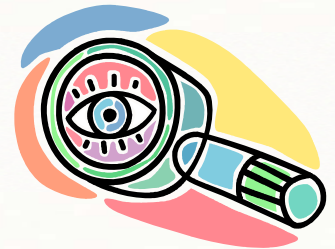
Implications of Definition

No more:

- We've always done it this way
- The vendor says
- This is what they use in “_____”
- Our director/consultant/education manager said...

Welcome to

- Review current literature*
- Subscribing to journals
- Asking if studies are valid for the program/setting/population



SEC. 641A. **STANDARDS**; MONITORING OF HEAD START AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS. [42 USC 9836A]

3. Standards relating to obligations to delegate agencies-
b. Measures

1. In general ...

shall use the study on Developmental Outcomes and Assessments for Young Children by the National Academy of Sciences and other **relevant research** to inform, revise, and provide guidance to Head Start agencies for utilizing, scientifically based

measures that support, as appropriate--

- (A) classroom instructional practices;
- (B) identification of children with special needs;
- (C) program evaluation; and
- (D) administrative and financial management practices.

. . . . (G) be high-quality **research-based** measures that have been demonstrated to assist with the purposes for which they were devised;



SEC. 641A. **STANDARDS**; MONITORING OF HEAD START AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS. [42 USC 9836A]

(2) CONDUCT OF REVIEWS-

(F) include as part of the reviews, a valid and reliable **research-based** observational instrument, implemented by qualified individuals with demonstrated reliability, that assesses classroom quality, including assessing multiple dimensions of teacher-child interactions that are linked to positive child development and later achievement;



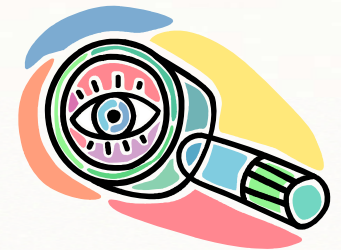
SEC. 642. POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF HEAD START AGENCIES. [42 U.S.C.9837]

(f) Quality Standards, Curricula, and Assessment--
To be so designated, each Head Start agency shall--

(3) implement a **research-based** early childhood curriculum that--

(A) promotes young children's school readiness in the areas of language and cognitive development, early reading and mathematics skills, socio-emotional development, physical development, and approaches to learning;

(B) is based on scientifically valid research and has standardized training procedures and curriculum materials to support implementation;



SEC. 642. POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF HEAD START AGENCIES. [42 U.S.C.9837]

- (5) use **research-based assessment** methods that reflect the characteristics described in section 641A(b)(2) in order to support the educational instruction and school readiness of children in the program;
- (6) use **research-based** developmental screening tools that have been demonstrated to be standardized, reliable, valid, and accurate for the child being assessed, to the maximum extent practicable, for the purpose of meeting the relevant standards described in section 641A(a)(1);



Sec. 644. ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS [42 U.S.C. 9839]

- (1) HOME VISITOR STAFF STANDARDS- (EHS)
- (2) CONTENTS OF STANDARDS- The standards for training, qualifications, and the conduct of home visits shall include content related to—
 - (D) methods to help parents promote emergent literacy in their children from birth through age 3, including use of **research-based strategies** to support the development of literacy and language skills for children who are limited English proficient;



SEC. 648. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING. [42 U.S.C. 9843]

(3) ACTIVITIES- In providing training and technical assistance and for allocating resources for such assistance under this section, the Secretary shall—
(xiv) provide activities that help ensure that Head Start programs have qualified staff who **can promote prevention of childhood obesity by integrating developmentally appropriate research-based initiatives** that stress the importance of physical activity and healthy, nutritional choices in daily classroom and family routines;



Web Resources

ACF Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation -

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/project/headStartProjects.jsp>

Annotated Bibliography of Head Start Research -

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/hsb2/biblio/>

OPRE Quality Research Center -

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/hs/qrc_two/index.html

Head Start Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center

<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/>

National Head Start Association (NHSA) Research and Evaluation Division -

<http://www.nhsa.org/research/index.htm>

National Center for Disabilities, Get Ready to Read. -

<http://www.getreadytoread.org/>

National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) – <http://nieer.org>



More Web Resources

VPK Approved Curricula -

<http://www.fldoe.org/earlyLearning/pdf/VPKCurricApprovedLowPerformProviders.pdf>

What Works Clearinghouse - <http://ies.ed.gov//ncee/wwc/>

Zero to Three <http://www.zerotothree.org/site/PageServer>

Pew Charitable Trust

http://www.pewtrusts.org/our_work_detail.aspx?id=92

Children's Defense Fund <http://www.childrensdefense.org/>



pre[k]now

a campaign of the
Pew Center on the States

FEDERAL INVESTME

In his first address to a joint session of Congress, President Obama underscored the need to rethink, rebuild and reprioritize in the face of serious economic challenges. Among the solutions he believes will help to bring about our short- and long-term recovery: greater investments in education and building human capital, starting with the youngest Americans. The President's newly released budget proposal for FY10 further reflects the Administration's commitment to provide federal resources that encourage state and local investments in early education.

Learn more:

[Highlights of the President's speech to Congress](#)
[Early education in the President's FY10 budget](#)
[Stimulus bill provisions for early education and care](#)

On-the-ground examples of stimulus dollars already making an impact in OHIO and

Washington

[The Pew Center on the States sends Congress a message](#)



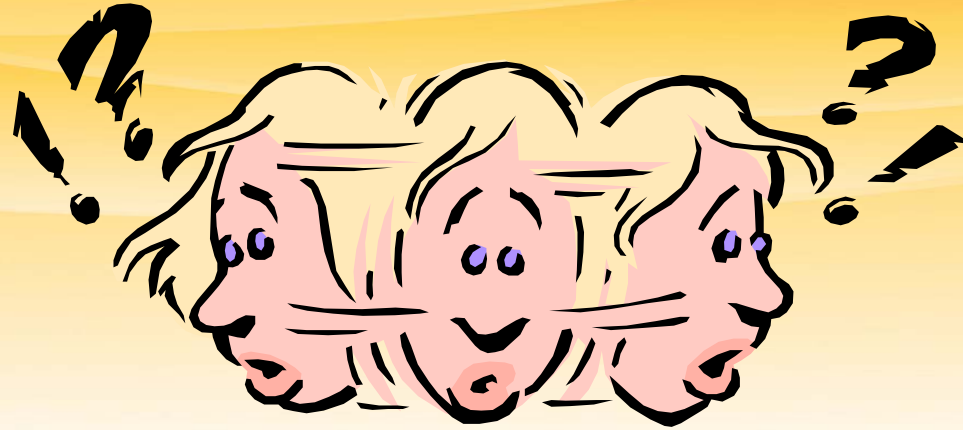
A child's most
important brain
development occurs
before age five.





Why would I want
to do research?





Insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.

Albert Einstein



They always say time changes
things, but you actually have
to change them yourself.

Andy Warhol





Research Journals

- NHSA Dialog
- Applied Developmental Science
- Child Development
- The Curriculum Journal
- Developmental Psychology
- Developmental Science
- Early Childhood Education Journal
- Early Childhood Research Quarterly
- Early Education and Development





Partnerships

- FHSA Research Committee
- NHSA Research Office
- Office of Head Start University Partnership Grants
- Universities
 - Experts
 - Libraries
 - Databases
 - Graduate Students





Types of Research

- Basic/Applied
- Qualitative/Quantitative
- Experimental/Nonexperimental
- Action
- Evaluation





Results!

Why, man, I have gotten a lot of
results. I know several thousand things
that won't work.

Thomas Edison



Once you replace negative thoughts
with positive ones, you'll start having
positive results.

Willie Nelson





Next Steps

Where does your program go from here?



References

Head Start Reauthorization Act -

<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/Program%20Design%20and%20Management/Head%20Start%20Requirements/Head%20Start%20Act/2007HeadStartA.htm>

Effects of Preschool Curriculum Programs on School Readiness

- <http://ies.ed.gov/ncer/>

Early childhood assessment: Why, What, and How? Executive Summary –

<http://www.nap.edu/catalog/12446.html>



References

Effects of preschool curriculum programs on school readiness. (2008). Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Research, U.S. Department of Education.

Eager to Learn: Educating Our Preschoolers, (2001), National Research Council, National Academies Press.



For a copy of this presentation, go the following websites:

www.earlychildhood.leeschools.net

www.fl-hsa.org under Research



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