

THE IMPACT OF THE ARK PROGRAM FOR PARENTS ON PRESCHOOL CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORS

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THE STUDY PARAMETERS

Study Subjects: Three Preschool Early Learning Centers in the Irving ISD and six ChildCareGroup Head Start Early Learning Centers—all of whom are located in Dallas, Texas.

Study Question: Is there a difference between the ARK Groups and the Control Groups when comparing the pre- and post-test observations of parents regarding the behaviors of their children?

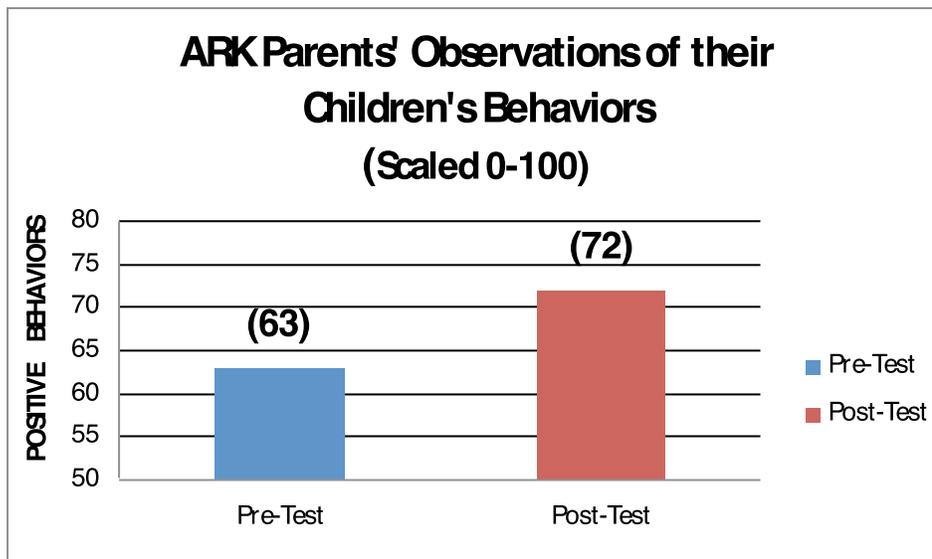
Study Description:

- The study is motivated by the belief that positive behavioral changes in children/students are of enormous benefit in creating an optimal environment for learning. Furthermore, if a pre-schooler has a positive view of herself and her school, the carry-over in terms of assuring that child's future academic success is tremendous.¹
- The ARK Program for Schools consists of ARK for Parents and ARK for Teachers. The ARK for Parents Program provides tools for creating nurturing home environments and elevating children's concept of themselves. The ARK for Teachers Program helps teachers to create a nurturing classroom environment and caring relationships with their students—key elements in helping children to feel respected and valued.
- The study was designed to test the efficacy of the ARK Groups in elevating the observed, positive behaviors of children. Analytical observations of the children's behavior were provided by pre-ARK and post-ARK surveys administered to the children's parents. Eighty-five parents participated in the study.
- The ARK Groups consisted of parents who participated in ARK for Parents Groups and whose children were taught by teachers who participated in ARK for Teacher Groups.
- The Control Groups consisted of parents who agreed to take the pre- and post-tests but whose children did not have their parents and/or teachers participate in either the ARK for Parents or the ARK for Teachers Programs.
- The parents' observations of their children's behavior, at the beginning (pre-ARK) and at the end (post-ARK) of the 2007-2008 school year, were measured by a Children's Behavioral Survey based on a scale of 0-100.²

Study Results:

- (1) ARK Group parents reported a significant, positive increase (a gain of 9 points) when comparing pre-test and post-test observations of their children's behaviors.

(2) Control Group parents reported an insignificant change (a loss of .7 point) when comparing pre-test and post-test observations of their



Conclusion:

The ARK Program had a markedly significant impact in increasing the positive behavior of the children whose parents and teachers participated in ARK Groups.

Control Group parents reported an insignificant change (a small decline) in the behavior of their children during the course of the study.