



PFA Family Involvement

Erikson Institute • SRI International • Illinois State Board of Education

This fact sheet summarizes findings from the Illinois Preschool for All (PFA) program evaluation conducted by Erikson Institute and SRI International. PFA programs are funded by the Illinois State Board of Education to provide early education opportunities for children between the ages of three and five, with priority given to children from low-income families and those who are determined to be “at risk.” The evaluation took an in-depth look at PFA programs throughout the state (excluding the city of Chicago) from 2008 through 2010 to provide a picture of PFA program quality, children’s school readiness, and the characteristics of program participants.

How are families involved in PFA Programs?

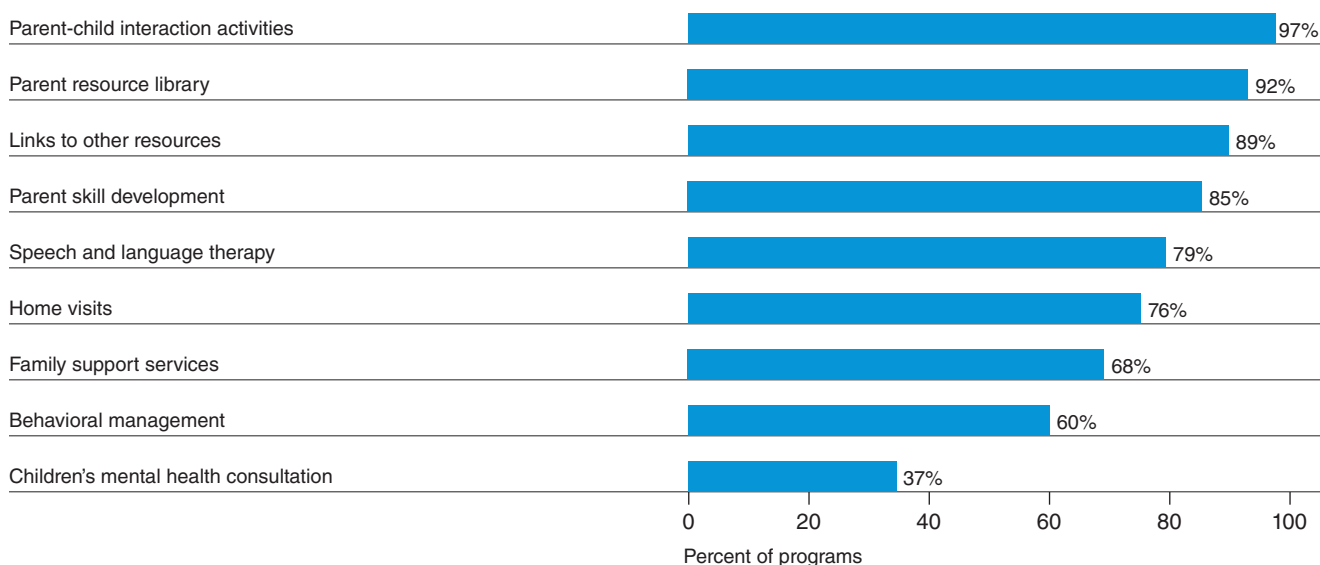
One priority of Preschool for All (PFA) is to involve families early in their child’s education. The data presented here show administrator and parent reports of family involvement in PFA programs.

PFA programs provide a wide range of services to support families.

The most common services provided by PFA programs include parent-child interaction activities (97%), parent resource libraries (92%), and referral to community resources (89%).

Family Support Services Provided by PFA Programs

Source: Web surveys



Parents report involvement in their children's PFA programs.

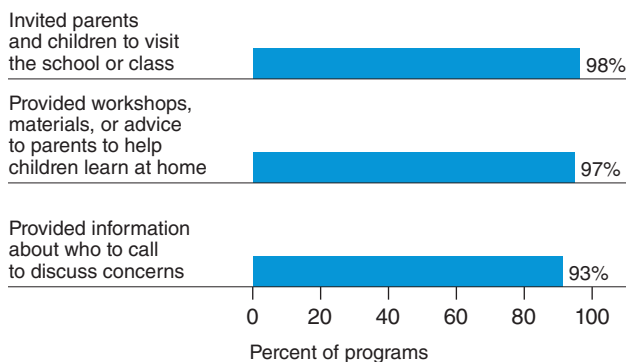
Parents report having strong connections to their child's PFA program. Approximately 98% report having met their child's teacher. In addition, about 98% report being invited to visit their child's classroom and 97% report being provided information, workshops, or other resources aimed at helping their child at home. Most parents (93%) also report that the school provided information about who to contact to discuss concerns.

About the data: *The evaluation team collected data from multiple sources, including a web-based survey and interviews with program administrators, interviews with parents, teacher surveys, classroom observations, and direct assessments of children. The evaluation took an in-depth look at 120 programs and nearly 700 children and their families throughout the state (excluding the city of Chicago).*

For more information about the Illinois Preschool for All (PFA) Evaluation, visit www.erikson.edu/PFAEvaluation.

Parents' Involvement in Their Children's PFA Programs

Source: Parent interviews



Herr Research Center for Children and Social Policy at Erikson Institute

Lead Evaluator

Erikson Institute advances the ability of practitioners, researchers, and decision makers to improve life for children and their families through its academic programs, applied research, and community partnerships and initiatives.

The Herr Research Center conducts original research, evaluations, and analysis to inform, guide, and support effective early childhood policy.

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SRI International

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SRI International is an independent, non-profit research institute conducting client-sponsored research and development for government agencies, commercial businesses, foundations, and other organizations. The Early Childhood Program is part of SRI's Policy Division.

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Early Childhood Division Illinois State Board of Education

Funder

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) administers public education in Illinois. The Early Childhood Division focuses on children from birth to 8 years old.

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