

[Poster Symposium Integrative Statement; Word count = 249; Rating = 5.0]

## **Outcomes of the Head Start Quality Research Center Consortium: Randomized Studies of School Readiness Enhancements**

Eight Head Start Quality Research Centers (QRC; 2001-2005) were funded to develop, implement, and evaluate interventions to enhance school readiness for children attending Head Start programs. The interventions were diverse in focus and rigorously tested using randomized designs. Investigators used both a common battery of school readiness measures and site specific instruments to measure change associated with each QRC intervention. This symposium presents results from the intervention trials conducted over a four-year period. The session discusses the similarities and differences among the interventions and their respective outcomes. Key goals of the symposium are to consider mechanisms for how this research may be used to enhance Head Start programs nationally, or other preschool experiences for children from low-income families, and to consider policy implications emerging from this work. QRC project abstracts reveal intervention effects with individual children and within the family and classroom microsystems. Child literacy, socioemotional development, and numeracy improved in several QRC intervention sites as compared to children from control centers. Also, some sites demonstrated a decrease in behavior problems and increases in pro-social behaviors for children receiving a QRC intervention. Lastly, developmental outcomes for special populations, including English Language Learners, are featured in individual QRC projects. This session is significant because it highlights the relative influence of diverse intervention approaches for enhancing school readiness. Further, the HSQRC consortium is discussed as a model for studying how interventions change the contexts that support preschool children's development. Implications

for early childhood researchers, administrators, and policy makers will be presented.