

Early Childhood Family Environment and Parent Engagement in Learning Fact Sheet

Family Environment

Table 1

Living Arrangements of Children by Age: 2007

	Under 1	1-2 year olds	3-5 year olds
Lived with married parents	69%	71%	71%
Lived with mother as sole adult	11%	11%	14%
Lived with father as sole adult	0%	1%	1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC), 2007 ([Kreider & Elliott, 2009, p. 16, Fig. 9](#)).

The CPS ASEC, 2004, found that 1% of the first generation population (foreign born) and 15% of the second generation population (natives with either parent born in a foreign country) were 0-4 years old ([U.S. Census Bureau, 2005, Table 5.1](#)).

The CPS ASEC, 2008 and 2009, found that 21.3% of children under 6 years old lived below the poverty level ([DeNavas-Walt, Proctor, & Smith, 2009, p. 14, Table 4](#)).

According to the Early Childhood Program Participation Survey (ECP) of the 2005 National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES), 60% of children from birth through age 5 were in at least one weekly nonparental care arrangement ([Iruka & Carver, 2006, p. 7, Table 1](#)).

The School Readiness Survey (SR) of the 2007 NHES, reports that in 2006-07, 3-6 year olds who were not enrolled in kindergarten watched an average of 2.6 hours of television or videos in a typical day ([O'Donnell, 2008, p. 15, Table 6](#)).

In the CPS 2003, 19.9% of 3-4 year olds used the Internet and 64.6% of them used it to play games ([Snyder, Dillow, & Hoffman, 2009, p. 621, Table 428](#)).

Parent Involvement in Learning

According to the 2005 Early Childhood Program Participation Survey (ECP) of the NHES, 86% of 3-5 year olds not yet in kindergarten were told a story by a family member in the past week, 95% were taught letters, words, or numbers, and 98% of family members participated by reading to their child ([Iruka & Carver, 2006, p. 67, Table 16](#)).

Table 2

The Frequency That Family Members Read to 3-6 Year Olds in the Past Week: 2006-07

	Not at all	Once or twice	Three or more times	Every day	Mean daily reading time in minutes
3-6 year olds	3%	13%	28%	55%	20.9

Source: The School Readiness Survey (SR) of the 2007 NHES, ([O'Donnell, 2008, p. 11, Table 4](#)).

According to the SR of the 2007 NHES, parents also reported engaging in specific reading-related activities with their 3-6 year olds:

- 55% asked a child what was in the picture
- 31% stopped reading and pointed out letters
- 24% asked their child to read with them
- 56% talked about the story and what happened ([O'Donnell, 2008, p. 13, Table 5](#)).

References

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