

Early Childhood School Readiness and Knowledge Fact Sheet

School Enrollment and School Readiness

In the Current Population Survey of 2008, 52.8% of 3-4 year olds were enrolled in nursery or kindergarten. ([U.S. Census Bureau, 2005, Table 1](#)).

The Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Birth Cohort 2001 (ECLS-B) results indicated that in the year prior to entering kindergarten, 83.2% of children born in 2001 were in nonparental early care and education ([Denton Flanagan & McPhee, 2009, p. 7, Table 1](#)).

In the School Readiness survey (SR) of the National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES), 2007, found that 89% of parents of 3-6 year olds not yet enrolled in kindergarten intended to enroll them in kindergarten on time; 7% planned delayed entry; and 1% planned early entry. ([O'Donnell, 2008, p. 5, Table 1](#)).

In the SR of the NHES, 2007, parents of 3-6 year olds not yet enrolled in kindergarten reported that

- 60% could write their first name;
- 32% could recognize all the letters; and
- 8% could read words in books. ([O'Donnell, 2008, p. 7, Table 2](#)).

Findings of the SR of the NHES, 2007, showed that 56% of parents believed that it is essential to teach their child the alphabet to prepare them for kindergarten and 45% believed that it is essential teach their child to read. ([O'Donnell, 2008, p. 9, Table 3](#)).

Knowledge and Skills of Young Children

In 2001-02, the ECLS-B reported that 29.6% of children at about 9 months of age could jabber excessively and 0.6% could name objects. ([Snyder, Dillow, & Hoffman, 2009, p. 172, Table 112](#)).

In 2003-04, results from the ECLS-B indicated that 84.5% of children at about 2 years of age had receptive vocabulary skills; 63.9% had expressive vocabulary skills; and 36.6% had listening comprehension skills. ([Snyder, Dillow, & Hoffman, 2009, p. 173, Table 113](#)).

In 2005-06, the ECLS-B reported that 32.7% of children at about 4 years of age were proficient at recognizing the letters of the alphabet. ([Snyder, Dillow, & Hoffman, 2009, p. 174, Table 114](#)).

Socio-Emotional Development and Health Status

The ECLS-B, 2003-04, found that 61.6% of children at about 2 years of age had a secure emotional attachment to their parents in 2003-04. ([Snyder, Dillow, & Hoffman, 2009, p. 173, Table 113](#)).

Table 1

The Health Status of Children Age 0-4: 2008

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair or Poor
0-4 year olds	59.5%	25.3%	14.0%	1.2%

Source: The National Health Interview Survey of 2008 ([U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2009, Table 6](#)).

Findings of the National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs, 2005-06, showed that 8.8% of children age 0-5 had special health care needs ([U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2007, p. 10](#)).

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