

Little Steps, Big Strides Families' Transition to Kindergarten Program (formerly Step into K) – 3 Year Program Summary

- ❖ The program attendance varied by location each year averaging approximately, 23 students at Thousand Island Elementary Public School, 22 students at St. Joseph's Catholic School and 18 students at Linklater Public School attending each year.
- ❖ 150 families completed a pre-program survey and 137 completed a post program evaluation, approximately a 91% completion rate for the 3 years.
- ❖ 100 parents provided contact information to participate in a follow up survey, telephone in 2011 and on-line survey in 2012 and 2013.

Pre – Program Survey

- ❖ Majority of parents who completed surveys (96%) reported speaking English at home.
- ❖ 85% of families who completed a survey reported that their income source was employment (83%) or self-employment (2%)
- ❖ Very few children (5%) did not attend any program in their community within the year prior to school. Children were reported attending a variety of community programs the year prior to beginning school: organized sports program (36%), Ontario Early Years Centre (29%), home child care (28%), library program (26%), child care centre (25%), nursery school (13%). *Note: Some children were reported attending more than one program for this reason the number does not equal 100%.*
- ❖ Most parents hoped the program would help with their child's school enjoyment, followed by routines and independence.
- ❖ Majority of the children were not identified with any special needs. Of the special needs choices, speech was identified the most each year.
- ❖ Majority of the children/families have not been involved with community agencies. Of the agencies listed, Inclusive Child Care and Infant Development were identified the most each year. *Note: Speech and Language was not provided as a choice.*
- ❖ Most parents (93%) reported having a positive experience registering their child for kindergarten, selecting either a 4 or 5 as their response. *Note: A rating of 5 is the highest*
- ❖ Most parents (94%) feel very comfortable approaching their child's school for additional information, selecting either a 4 or 5 as their response. *Note: A rating of 5 is the highest*
- ❖ More than 2/3 of parents are very positive about their child starting school, selecting either a 4 or 5 as their response. Less than 10% selected 2 or 3 as their response. *Note: A rating of 5 is the highest*

- ❖ The majority of parents reported having their own positive experiences with school growing up; however, 25% of parents selected 3 or less as their response. *Note: A rating of 1 is the lowest.*
- ❖ Most parents (85%) reported that their children have 3 or more supportive adults in their lives.
- ❖ Most parents (87%) reported that their child is excited to start school.
- ❖ Nearly all parents (96%) indicated that their child likes to learn new things.
- ❖ 68% of parents indicated that their child participates in community activities.
- ❖ Only 69% of parents reported that their child will have a friend in the same school, while 29% reported No or Not Sure to this question when asked on the program pre-survey.

Post – Program Survey

- ❖ Every parent who completed a post-program survey indicated that their child enjoyed this program.
- ❖ 85% of parents now reported that they thought their child had made a friend before starting school, compared to 69% of parents who reported their child would have a friend in the pre-program survey question.
- ❖ The majority of parents (68%) reported that they connected or strengthened their connection with community agencies as a result of this program. Some parents (20%) were unsure if the program helped with their community connection.
- ❖ 58% of parents became aware of the Nippissing screening tool as a result of participating in this program, 13% did not and another 26% of parents were unsure.
- ❖ Over the 3 years 78% of parents reported that the program helped them to create a social network with other parents, while 10% of parents did not feel the program helped them to create a social network. In 2011, 24% of the parents did not feel the program helped them to create a social network. *Improvements were noted in 2012 and 2013 program activities.*
- ❖ All parents who responded indicated that the program was beneficial to their child's school success.
- ❖ 94% of parents felt the program would increase their involvement with the school.
- ❖ 99% of parents were satisfied with the program staff and provided additional comments to reflect their satisfaction.
- ❖ 100% of the parents indicated that they would recommend the program to others.