

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids

**National
Kindergarten Teacher
Survey**

2004

**A National Survey of Kindergarten
Teachers on the Preparedness of our
Nation's Youngest Students:**

- **Are kindergarteners coming to school prepared for academic and social success?**
- **The importance of key social and behavioral skills to success in the classroom**
- **The cost of unpreparedness to all students in the classroom**

Conducted by

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Methodology:

The **Fight Crime: Invest in Kids *National Kindergarten Teacher Survey*** was conducted by Mason-Dixon Polling & Research, Inc. of Washington, D.C. from July 9 through July 14, 2004. A total 800 kindergarten teachers were interviewed nationally by telephone.

Those interviewed were selected randomly from a commercially available list compiled from state licensing records.

The margin for error, according to standards customarily used by statisticians, is no more than plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. This means that there is a 95 percent probability that the "true" figure would fall within that range if the entire national population kindergarten teachers were sampled.

Findings:

1. In your judgment, what percentage of your pupils last year were inadequately prepared for kindergarten when they started school.

0-20%	54%
21-40%	18%
41-60%	13%
61-80	9%
81-100%	6%
NOT SURE	0%

2. If you know or had to estimate, what percentage of your pupils entering kindergarten last year had attended quality pre-kindergarten programs, whether private programs or public ones such as Head Start.

0-20%	15%
21-40%	17%
41-60%	25%
61-80	18%
81-100%	24%
NOT SURE	1%

3. Among children in your class last year, would you say that the children who attended pre-kindergarten were substantially better prepared to start school ready to succeed, equally well prepared, or substantially less prepared to start school ready to succeed?

SUBSTANTIALLY BETTER PREPARED	66%
EQUALLY PREPARED	33%
LESS PREPARED	1%
NOT SURE	1%

In your professional judgment, how important are the following characteristics for a child to be ready for in kindergarten?

4. Can count to 20.

ESSENTIAL	11%	27%	← Total Essential or Very Important
VERY IMPORTANT	16%		
SW IMPORTANT	47%		
NOT TOO IMP	21%		
NOT AT ALL IMP	5%		
NOT SURE	0%		

5. Has problem-solving skills

ESSENTIAL	16%	61%
VERY IMPORTANT	45%	
SW IMPORTANT	34%	
NOT TOO IMP	4%	
NOT AT ALL IMP	0%	

6. Is not disruptive in the class

ESSENTIAL	28%	86%
VERY IMPORTANT	58%	
SW IMPORTANT	11%	
NOT TOO IMP	3%	
NOT AT ALL IMP	0%	

7. Gets along with other children and is sensitive to their feelings

ESSENTIAL	22%	
VERY IMPORTANT	61%	83%
SW IMPORTANT	17%	
NOT TOO IMP	0%	
NOT AT ALL IMP		

8. Pays attention

ESSENTIAL	27%	
VERY IMPORTANT	59%	86%
SW IMPORTANT	14%	
NOT TOO IMP	0%	
NOT AT ALL IMP		

9. Knows letters of alphabet

ESSENTIAL	9%	
VERY IMPORTANT	24%	32%
SW IMPORTANT	52%	
NOT TOO IMP	13%	
NOT AT ALL IMP	3%	

10. Can follow directions

ESSENTIAL	23%	
VERY IMPORTANT	61%	83%
SW IMPORTANT	17%	
NOT TOO IMP	0%	

Now I would like to read the same list of skills and characteristics that children may need to succeed as they enter kindergarten.

I would like for you to compare the children who have attended a quality pre-kindergarten program to those who have not and tell me how much more likely a child who attended quality care is to possess that skill or characteristic.

The first characteristic is:

11. Can count to 20. Now, how much more likely is a child who attended a quality pre-kindergarten program to possess this characteristic or skill compared to a child who did not? Much more likely, somewhat more likely, not much more likely, not at all more likely?

MUCH MORE LIKELY	55%	92%	← Total More Likely
SW MORE LIKELY	37%		
NOT MUCH MORE	4%		
NOT AT ALL	3%		
NOT SURE	1%		

12. Has problem-solving skills

MUCH MORE LIKELY	44%	86%
SW MORE LIKELY	43%	
NOT MUCH MORE	12%	
NOT AT ALL	1%	
NOT SURE	1%	

13. Is not disruptive in the class

MUCH MORE LIKELY	33%	78%
SW MORE LIKELY	46%	
NOT MUCH MORE	15%	
NOT AT ALL	6%	
NOT SURE	1%	

14. Gets along with other children and is sensitive to their feelings

MUCH MORE LIKELY	43%	88%
SW MORE LIKELY	46%	
NOT MUCH MORE	10%	
NOT AT ALL	1%	
NOT SURE	1%	

15. Pays attention

MUCH MORE LIKELY	42%	
SW MORE LIKELY	46%	88%
NOT MUCH MORE	8%	
NOT AT ALL	4%	
NOT SURE	1%	

16. Knows letters of alphabet

MUCH MORE LIKELY	58%	
SW MORE LIKELY	36%	93%
NOT MUCH MORE	5%	
NOT AT ALL	1%	
NOT SURE	0%	

17. Can follow directions

MUCH MORE LIKELY	51%	
SW MORE LIKELY	42%	93%
NOT MUCH MORE	6%	
NOT AT ALL	1%	
NOT SURE	1%	

18. How much of your class time is spent dealing with child misbehavior (noise, horseplay or fighting, for example)?

<10%	25%
10-25%	41%
26-50%	25%
>50%	9%
NOT SURE	0%

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements. The first is:

19. Children in your class last year who attended pre-kindergarten typically will do better in school than those who did not attend pre-kindergarten. Do you agree or disagree and is that strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree?

ST AGREE	50%	
SW AGREE	36%	86% ← Total Agree
SW DISAGREE	10%	
ST DISAGREE	4%	
NOT SURE	1%	

20. The second statement is: Substantially more children would succeed in school if all families had access to quality pre-kindergarten programs? Is that strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree?

ST AGREE	69%	
SW AGREE	24%	93%
SW DISAGREE	4%	
ST DISAGREE	3%	
NOT SURE	1%	

21. The last statement is: . . . The time I devote to dealing with disruptive behavior by poorly-prepared children, and helping them catch up, negatively affects the progress of well-prepared children.

ST AGREE	57%	
SW AGREE	29%	86%
SW DISAGREE	9%	
ST DISAGREE	5%	
NOT SURE	1%	

DEMOGRAPHICS:

22. Which of the following best describes the location of your school?

RURAL	39%
URBAN	30%
SUBURBAN	31%
OTHER/DK	0%

23. What would you estimate the percentage of children in your school qualify for a Free or Reduced Lunch Program?

<10%	15%
10-25%	17%
26-50%	23%
51-75%	20%
>75%	24%
NOT SURE/REF	1%

24. What would you estimate is the percentage of minority students at your school?

<10%	32%
10-25%	25%
26-50%	18%
51-75%	9%
>75%	16%
NOT SURE/REF	0%

25. Region

NORTHEAST	21%
MIDWEST	23%
SOUTH	29%
WEST	28%