Frog Street Pre-K Curriculum: Fall to Spring Gains in School Readiness

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Study Overview

NORC at the University of Chicago conducted an independent study to examine fall to spring differences in school readiness rates for children who attended public preschool in Texas districts that used the *Frog Street Pre-K* curriculum.

Program Overview

FROG STREET PRE-K

Frog Street Pre-K is a comprehensive, research-based curriculum that integrates instruction across developmental domains and is aligned to state and national standards. The program is rooted in a deep knowledge of child development and empowers teachers to know not only what to teach but how also the how and why of instructional strategies. The five cornerstones of the curriculum are:

- Integration of Themes, Disciplines and Learning Domains
- Social and Emotional Development
- Differentiated Instruction
- Equity of English and Spanish Instruction and Materials
- Child-Centered Approaches toward Learning

Study Approach

NORC used a pretest-posttest deisgn to examine the fall to spring school readiness rates for students who attended a public preschool program in Texas districts that used the *Frog Street Pre-K* curriculum. The study compared the percentage of students who met the established benchmark scores on the CIRCLE assessment in four domains at two time points – preschool entry (fall) and preschool exit (spring).

Depending on the domain, the analytic sample included 75,699 to 134,613 preschool-aged students in 634 to 734 Texas districts across three school years (2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19). Overall, 87% of students in the sample are from low-income families; 56%-62% are Hispanic; 14%-17% are Black; and 23%-31% are Dual Language Learners.

Results

Students who attended public preschool in Texas districts that used the *Frog Street Pre-K* curriculum demonstrated statistically significant gains from fall to spring in attaining the CIRCLE assessment benchmark scores for three domains - Language, Emergent Literacy Reading, and Math. The percent of students who attained the CIRCLE assessment benchmark score for Writing was consistently high at 92% from fall to spring. See Figure 1.
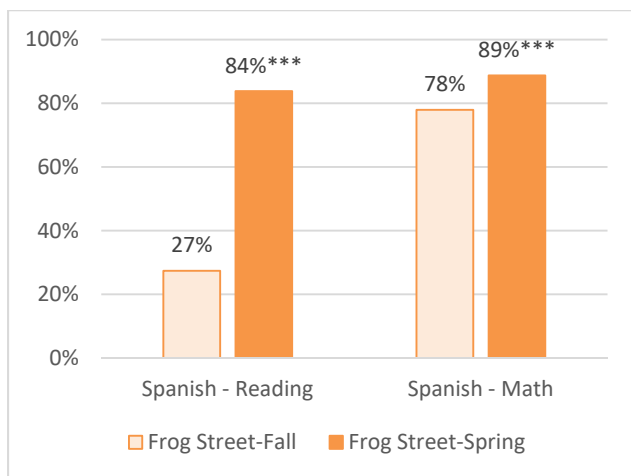
Figure 1. Percent of Students Who Attained Benchmark Scores on the CIRCLE Assessment, Fall to Spring Comparisons
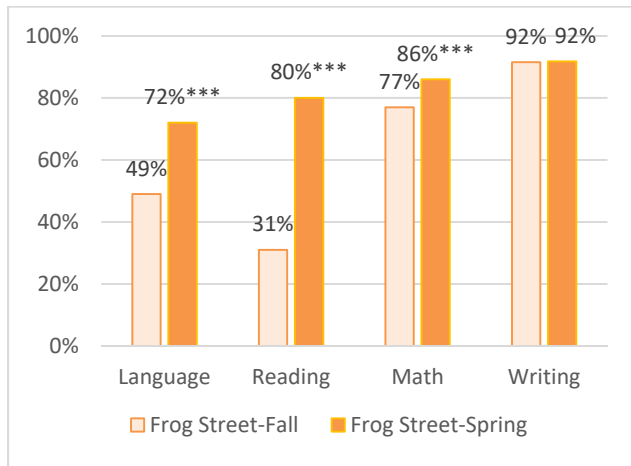
N=116,445 for Language; 117,892 for Reading; 134,613 for Math; and 75,699 for Writing
*** p<.01, **p<0.05, *p<.10

Students who attended public preschool in Texas districts that used the *Frog Street Pre-K* curriculum Frog Street demonstrated statistically significant gains in attaining the benchmark score from fall to spring on the Spanish version of the CIRCLE assessment in two domains - Emergent Literacy Reading and Math. See Figure 2.

Figure 2. Percent of Students Who Attained Benchmark Scores on the Spanish Version of the CIRCLE Assessment, Fall to Sping Comparisons

N=35,549 for Spanish-Reading and 27,788 for Spanish-Math
*** p<.01, **p<0.05, *p<.10

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