

First 5 Ventura County
Parent and Child Together (PACT) Pilot Model
Evaluation:
Summary of Key Findings
Outcomes Assessment
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Prepared for



Developed by

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Introduction

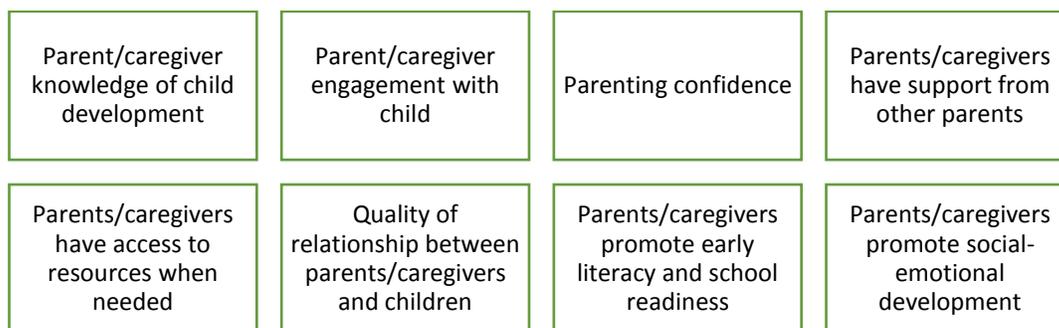
Parent and Child Together (PACT) is a locally developed early learning program for children ages 0 to 5. The PACT program provides opportunities for parents/caregivers and children to engage in activities that enhance parenting and child development. The program is funded through First 5 Ventura County and operates through 11 Neighborhoods for Learning (NfL) throughout the County. In 2018, the PACT Program Model was refined, standardized, piloted at 5 of the 11 NfLs. At each pilot site, data were collected to assess expected program outcomes. This report presents an overview of the findings from the analysis of the outcomes data.

Methods

PACT Parent Survey

The PACT Parent Survey is a pre- and post-survey designed to assess changes in parents'/caregivers' knowledge, skills, level of engagement with their child, and connections to social and community resources. The pre- and post-survey contain 21 identical items that assess 8 outcomes the PACT program was designed to target (**Figure 1**). Parents/caregivers were asked to rate all items on 4-point scales (i.e., Rarely to Always; Never to Everyday) with higher scores indicating that parents/caregivers engage in a behavior or experience a feeling or thought more frequently.

Figure 1. PACT Outcomes Assessed by the PACT Parent Pre- Post-Survey



The post-survey contains an additional 7 items that measure the family's experience with PACT and their application of skills learned through the PACT.¹ All items are rated on a 4-point scale (i.e., Never to Everyday; Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree) with higher scores indicating parent/caregivers engage in a behavior with more frequency or have higher levels of agreement with the item. The post-survey also has an open-ended item that asks parents/caregivers to describe how their interactions with their children have changed since participating in the PACT.

¹ Results from these items are included in **Appendix A**.

Survey Administration

Staff within each of the five NFLs that participated in the pilot were instructed to ask parents and caregivers to complete a pre-survey prior to participating in the PACT Pilot and a post-survey at the conclusion of the PACT Pilot. The survey was available in English and Spanish. NFL staff entered survey data into the Persimmony database.

Data Preparation and Analysis

Survey data were exported from Persimmony for the current analyses.

Quantitative Data. In preparation for quantitative analyses, data were cleaned and assessed for outliers, missing data, and duplicate responses. Some parents/caregivers completed multiple pre-surveys. In these instances, the survey with the earliest assessment date was included in the final data set. In addition, only surveys with assessment dates that corresponded to the dates of the PACT pilot were included. Only one case was included per family. When multiple parents/caregivers completed surveys (e.g., a mother and a father; a mother and a grandmother), the case with complete data (i.e., a pre-survey and a post-survey) was selected for inclusion into the data set. If both caregivers had complete data, one of the cases was selected at random for inclusion. When data was available for multiple children in the same family, the same criteria were applied.²

Survey items were grouped together to create composite outcome variables for five of the eight outcomes listed in **Figure 1**. The remaining three outcomes (i.e., engagement with child outside of PACT, support from other parents, and access to resources) were assessed in the PACT Parent Survey with single items (thus creating composite variables was not possible or necessary).

Paired sample t-tests were used to identify statistically significant differences between outcomes before and after participation in the PACT Pilot.

Qualitative Data. The post-survey included one open-ended question asking parents/caregivers to describe how their interactions had changed since participating in PACT. Responses from all post-surveys were included in the content analysis of the open-ended question. The final sample for this analysis contains 179 responses.

Results

The final pre-post survey matched data set contains 152 cases. Descriptive information about these cases is presented below (**Table 1**).

² In some instances, there was not enough identifying information (e.g., client ID, child birth dates) to successfully link pre- and post-surveys within a family. When cases could not be matched, they were not included in the matched analyses.

Table 1. Descriptive Characteristics of Matched Pre-Post Survey Respondents (n=152)

Matched Survey Descriptive Characteristics	n	% of total
Prior PACT Participation		
Parent/caregiver had previously participated in PACT	109	72%
Parent/caregiver had not previously participated in PACT	43	28%
Ages of Children		
0-11 months	12	78%
12-35 months	116	76%
36-60 months	24	16%
Participants at Each Nfl		
Conejo Valley	19	12%
Moorpark/Simi Valley	12	8%
Pleasant Valley	15	15%
Port Hueneme/South Oxnard	23	10%
Ventura	83	55%

Pre-Survey Parent/Caregiver Baseline Data

In general, parents/caregivers participating in the PACT Pilot reported high levels of the desired PACT outcomes even before the PACT Pilot began with 72-95% of parents/caregivers scoring a 3 or above (on a 4-point scale (e.g., most of the time or always) for most outcome variables (**Table 2**). Parent/caregiver connections to social/community connections was a notable exception. Only 50% of parents/caregivers rated this as 3 or above. In fact, 21% of the families reported that they “rarely (1)” had places to connect with other parents.

Table 2. Pre-Survey: Percent of Parents/Caregivers with Scores of 3 or Higher on PACT Outcome Variables (n=152)

Outcomes	Percent Scoring 3 or Higher
High quality relationship between parent and child	95%
Parent/caregiver promotion of social-emotional development	92%
Parent/caregiver engagement with child outside of PACT	92%
Parent/caregiver knowledge of child development	87%
Parent/caregiver confidence in parenting abilities	84%
Parent/caregiver promotion of early literacy and school readiness	78%
Parent/caregiver access to resources	72%
Parent/caregiver connection to social/community connections	50%

Matched Pre-Post Survey Outcomes

Table 3 presents results of the pre-post PACT survey analyses (i.e., paired samples t-tests) for all families in the data set. As can be seen below, after participating in the PACT Pilot parents/caregivers scored significantly higher on (1) promotion of early literacy and school readiness and (2) access to resources. This suggests that parents/caregivers engaged in more reading, talking, and singing with their children after participating in the PACT Pilot. Parents/caregivers also feel better able to get services for their children, when needed, after participating in the PACT Pilot. There were no statistically significant differences between pre- and post-survey scores for any of the other outcomes.

Table 3. Differences in Outcomes Before and After PACT Pilot Participation (n=141-149)

Outcomes	Average Score (4-point scale)	
	Pre-Survey	Post-Survey
High quality relationship between parent and child	3.66	3.63
Parent/caregiver engagement with child outside of PACT	3.55	3.54
Parent/caregiver promotion of social-emotional development	3.49	3.52
Parent/caregiver knowledge of child development	3.44	3.51
Parent/caregiver promotion of early literacy and school readiness	3.37	3.50 ✓
Parent/caregiver confidence in parenting abilities	3.23	3.21
Parent/caregiver access to resources	3.01	3.21 ✓
Parent/caregiver connection to social/community connections	2.50	2.48

✓ Indicates a statistically significant difference ($p < .05$)

A similar pattern of findings emerged when comparing pre-post outcomes among families ($n=37 - 42$) with no prior PACT participation. These families had significantly higher scores on promotion of early literacy and school readiness after participating in PACT (pre-survey average: 3.20, post-survey average: 3.43). The families also scored higher on access to resources post PACT participation (pre-survey average: 2.76, post-survey average: 3.08); however, this difference was *not* statistically significant.

The site-level samples sizes were too small to run statistical analyses. However, pre- and post-averages for the outcome variables listed above are provided in **Appendix B**. Of note, averages are provided for informational purposes. Conclusions about whether outcomes changed after PACT Pilot participation at the site-level *cannot* be drawn. The pre- and post-averages also *cannot* be used to make comparisons across sites.

Post-Survey Open-Ended Response Outcomes

The open-ended survey item asked parents/caregivers to share how their interactions with their child had changed as a result of participating in PACT. In response to this item, parents/caregivers reported numerous positive changes in their children, themselves, and their relationships with their children. The most commonly identified outcomes are listed in **Table 4**. Four of these changes are described and grouped in alignment with the expected program outcomes for parents/caregivers from the pre- post-survey (**Figure 1**). The remaining changes are grouped by whether they describe outcomes for parents/caregivers, children, or dyads. In addition to outcomes associated with PACT participation, some parents/caregivers described the excitement their children experienced during PACT ($n=13$), praised the PACT program ($n=6$), and thanked the teachers or program ($n=9$).

Table 4. Parent/Caregiver Identified PACT Outcomes (n=179)

Outcomes	n
PACT Outcomes Assessed by the PACT Parent Pre- Post-Survey (from Figure 1)	
Parent/Caregiver Knowledge of Child Development Parents reported a better understanding developmental milestones and increased knowledge or advice about how to parent more effectively.	17
Parent/Caregiver Confidence in Parenting Abilities Parents reported generally being a better or more confident parent.	20
Parent/Caregiver Engagement with Child outside of PACT Parents/caregivers reported increased free play or activities they learned in PACT classes with their children at home.	18
High Quality Relationship between Parent and Child Parents/caregivers reported improved parent/caregiver-child relationships. They reported better communication, more sharing, and increased quality time.	53
Additional Outcomes	
Parent/Caregiver Outcomes	
Applied Parenting Skills Parents reported promoting their children’s independence, encouraging learning through activities, and modeling or scaffolding to help their child to learn.	16
Child Outcomes	
General Positive Change Parents/caregivers reported overall improvement in their child after PACT participation.	29
Peer Relations Children played or interacted with other children more frequently and developed friendships with their PACT classmates.	43
Early Literacy and School Readiness Children showed increased or improved talking, singing, reading and writing. In some cases, their vocabularies expanded.	42
Socio-Emotional Development Children showed increased patience, sharing, and emotional expression. They were calmer and had fewer tantrums.	21
Activeness, Awareness and Confidence Children showed increased activeness, awareness, confidence. They engaged or participated more in activities or play, both at home and in class.	20
Parent/Caregiver-Child Dyad Outcomes	
Parent/Caregiver Responsiveness to Child³ Parents/Caregivers reported increased awareness, patience, listening, attention, or generally having a better understanding of their child.	28
Following Rules/Routines/Directions Parents/caregivers reported establishing or improving routines at home. They also reported that children’s abilities to follow rules or routines improved.	13

³ Parent/Caregiver responsiveness to child is a component of the program outcome *High quality relationship between parent/caregiver and child*. It was coded separately because of the high number of parents/caregivers who listed it in response to the open-ended question.

Summary

Findings from the PACT Parent Survey suggest that participating in the PACT Pilot was beneficial for families. The quantitative data demonstrated that parents/caregivers who participated in PACT showed improvements in their promotion of early literacy and school readiness, as well as their knowledge about access to resources to support their children. Additional program benefits were identified in open-ended responses (e.g., promotion of social-emotional development, high quality parent/caregiver-child relationships, parental engagement with child outside of PACT). Of note, parent/caregiver connections to social and community supports was the only program outcome that was not identified as benefiting PACT participants in either the quantitative or the qualitative data.

The results of the PACT Parent Survey will be coupled with data collected about the PACT Pilot implementation to inform recommendations to enhance the PACT Pilot Model and future evaluations. The evaluation findings and recommendation will be included in a forthcoming final evaluation report.

Appendix A: Parent/Caregiver Experiences with PACT

The post-survey contains 7 items that are not present on the pre-survey. These items measure the family's experience with PACT and their application of skills learned through the PACT. As illustrated by the table below, responses were consistently positive.

Table 5. Post-Survey: Parent/Caregiver Experiences with PACT (n=146-149)

Survey Item	Percent Agreement
Participating in the PACT was a positive experience for me.	99%
Participating in the PACT was a positive experience for my child.	99%
My child's development was enhanced by participating in the PACT.	99%
I learned important parenting skills during the PACT.	99%
My PACT teacher was knowledgeable about child development.	99%
My PACT teacher was knowledgeable about parenting.	99%
	Percent Responding 3 to 7 Days
In a usual week, how many days do you use activities with your child that you learned at PACT?	90%

Appendix B: Outcomes Across PACT Pilot Sites

Table 6. Pre- and Post-Survey Scores at Conejo Valley (n=16-19)

Outcomes	Average Score (4-point scale)	
	Pre-Survey	Post-Survey
Parent/caregiver knowledge of child development	3.47	3.63
Parent/caregiver promotion of early literacy and school readiness	3.33	3.57
Parent/caregiver promotion of social-emotional development	3.52	3.59
Parent/caregiver engagement with child outside of PACT	3.71	3.59
Parent/caregiver confidence in parenting abilities	3.18	3.24
Parent/caregiver connection to social/community connections	2.35	2.47
Parent/caregiver access to resources	3.25	3.31
High quality relationship between parent and child	3.67	3.74

Table 7. Pre- and Post-Survey Scores at Moorpark/Simi Valley (n=11-12)

Outcomes	Average Score (4-point scale)	
	Pre-Survey	Post-Survey
Parent/caregiver knowledge of child development	3.13	3.33
Parent/caregiver promotion of early literacy and school readiness	3.78	3.67
Parent/caregiver promotion of social-emotional development	3.50	3.54
Parent/caregiver engagement with child outside of PACT	3.50	3.58
Parent/caregiver confidence in parenting abilities	2.88	3.38
Parent/caregiver connection to social/community connections	2.42	2.50
Parent/caregiver access to resources	2.83	3.25
High quality relationship between parent and child	3.57	3.54

Table 8. Pre- and Post-Survey Scores at Pleasant Valley (n=14-15)

Outcomes	Average Score (4-point scale)	
	Pre-Survey	Post-Survey
Parent/caregiver knowledge of child development	3.70	3.67
Parent/caregiver promotion of early literacy and school readiness	3.64	3.84
Parent/caregiver promotion of social-emotional development	3.67	3.67
Parent/caregiver engagement with child outside of PACT	3.87	3.87
Parent/caregiver confidence in parenting abilities	3.39	3.25
Parent/caregiver connection to social/community connections	2.57	2.79
Parent/caregiver access to resources	2.93	3.47
High quality relationship between parent and child	3.79	3.68

Table 9. Pre- and Post-Survey Scores at Port Hueneme/South Oxnard (n=20-23)

Outcomes	Average Score (4-point scale)	
	Pre-Survey	Post-Survey
Parent/caregiver knowledge of child development	3.63	3.63
Parent/caregiver promotion of early literacy and school readiness	3.33	3.46
Parent/caregiver promotion of social-emotional development	3.44	3.43
Parent/caregiver engagement with child outside of PACT	3.48	3.48
Parent/caregiver confidence in parenting abilities	3.52	3.43
Parent/caregiver connection to social/community connections	2.50	2.55
Parent/caregiver access to resources	2.80	2.90
High quality relationship between parent and child	3.62	3.64

Table 10. Pre- and Post-Survey Scores at Ventura (n=78-82)

Outcomes	Average Score (4-point scale)	
	Pre-Survey	Post-Survey
Parent/caregiver knowledge of child development	3.38	3.45
Parent/caregiver promotion of early literacy and school readiness	3.28	3.41
Parent/caregiver promotion of social-emotional development	3.46	3.51
Parent/caregiver engagement with child outside of PACT	3.49	3.49
Parent/caregiver confidence in parenting abilities	3.18	3.11
Parent/caregiver connection to social/community connections	2.54	2.41
Parent/caregiver access to resources	3.06	3.22
High quality relationship between parent and child	3.66	3.60