



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides a wealth of information on children enrolling in public and parochial schools during the 2000-2001 scholastic year. These data were collected using the Parent Appraisal of Child's Experiences (PACE), an instrument that allows systematic collection of important screening information from a parent's viewpoint. The Monroe County Health Department (MCHD), the Rochester City School District (RCSD), and Children's Institute, Inc. jointly developed the PACE, in consultation with numerous early childhood professionals, including early childhood teachers, audiologists, physical and occupational therapists, speech pathologists, social workers, school psychologists, .school nurses, and pediatricians.

The PACE was designed to exceed the functionality of two earlier measures that it replaced the Health Appraisal Form and the Kindergarten Parent Review, both used since 1989 by MCHD, RCSD, and schools in Monroe BOCES #1. The PACE consists of eight major sections: family demographic information; childcare history; general health information; fine, gross motor and sensory functioning; speech and language development; school skills; social/emotional and behavioral functioning; and life experiences.

This report details important information regarding the status of children entering school on medical, school, and social indicators. Of particular interest is the opportunity to examine three-year trends in areas covered by the PACE. We anticipate that the PACE will continue to be further refined until an accurate and efficient system is established, allowing for relevant communication between parents and schools, with the goal of closely monitoring and improving the early childhood environment within the city of Rochester, and all of Monroe County.

Note: Reference T02-019

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