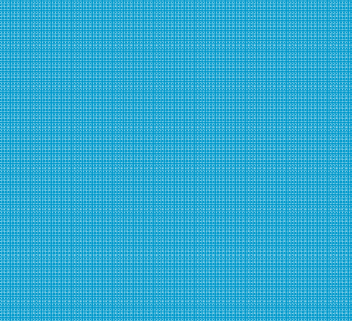


**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:
COMMUNITY REPORT ON CHILDREN ENTERING
KINDERGARTEN IN 1998 ROCHESTER, NEW YORK**



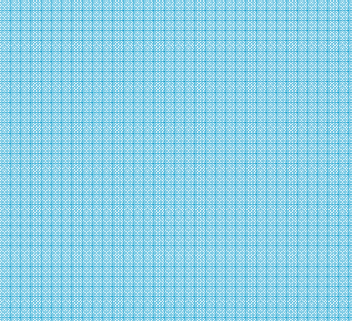
Kimberly A. Searl
Guillermo Montes
A. Dirk Hightower
Deborah B. Johnson
AUGUST, 1999



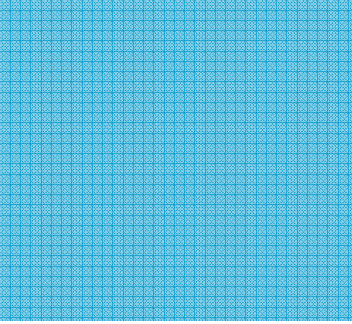
children's institute
Strengthening social and emotional health



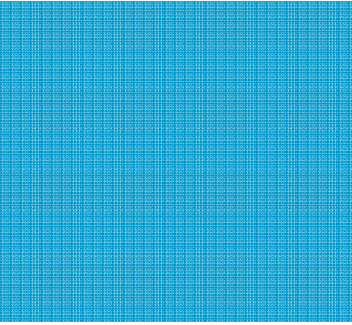
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



This report provides a description of children who entered kindergarten in the fall of 1998 in Rochester public and parochial schools based on information collected from parents and guardians on the Parent Appraisal of Child's Experiences (1998). The Parent Appraisal of Child's Experiences (PACE) is an instrument that allows for the systematic collection of information regarding children entering kindergarten. The PACE is the product of a collaborative effort among the Monroe County Health Department (MCHD), the Rochester City School District (RCSD), and the Primary Mental Health Project (PMHP). Additional consultation was provided by numerous early childhood professionals including early childhood teachers, social workers, school psychologists, speech and physical therapists and pediatricians.



The framework for the PACE items was provided by two other measures, the Health Appraisal Form and the Kindergarten Parent Review. Both have been used since 1989, by MCHD, RCSD and Monroe BOCES #1 schools. The PACE consists of 8 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 provides a wealth of important information regarding the status of children entering kindergarten on medical, school and social indicators. The predictive validity in terms of future academic achievement for both of these measures was established by two studies conducted in 1997. It is anticipated that the PACE will continue to be refined until an accurate and efficient system is established that will allow for very relevant communication between parents and schools with the ultimate goal of continuously improving the early childhood environment in the city of Rochester, and all of Monroe County.



Note: Reference T99-523.1

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