



Parent Academy

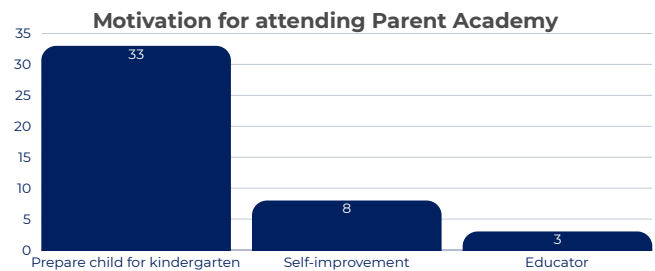
What is Parent Academy?

Parent Academy is a free program designed to help parents prepare their four-year-old children for a successful start to kindergarten. The program covers kindergarten-readiness topics such as oral language, early reading, math, and general development. The modules are conducted monthly at a local partner site, focusing on eliminating barriers to access by providing childcare on-site, a meal during training, and activities families may take home and use with their children to support their learning and development.

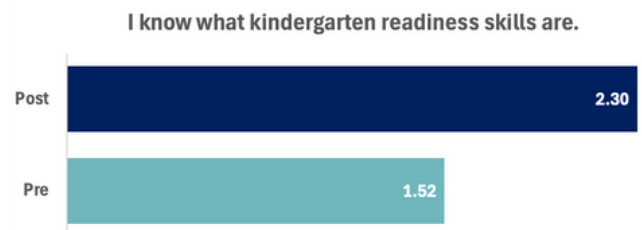
Parent Academy was originally developed by the Barksdale Reading Institute and implemented from 2016-2019. It was relaunched in 2024-25 through a partnership between the University of Mississippi Center for Excellence in Literacy Instruction (CELI), the Mississippi Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (MSGRLR), and local communities.

Pilot Evaluation Findings

- 1 Three out of four (75%) participants attended Parent Academy to better prepare their child(ren) for kindergarten.**



- 2 Participants increased knowledge and awareness of kindergarten readiness skills after participating in Parent Academy. Gains were observed in all skill areas including: Social/Emotional, Fine/Gross Motor, Language, Math, and Reading and Writing.**



Note: Scale of 1-3 with higher scores indicating greater knowledge. Skill area outcomes report on back.

“It not only helped you to be prepared for your child, but as a parent, to understand what they actually need for the next grade.”
- Participant

Parent Academy Participant Outcomes

Participants increased knowledge of kindergarten readiness skills after participating in Parent Academy. Gains were observed in all skill areas including: Social/Emotional, Fine/Gross Motor, Language, Math, and Reading and Writing.

Figure 2. Participant knowledge of fine/gross motor related kindergarten readiness skills

Participants know how to help their child develop fine and gross motor skills and the differences between the two.

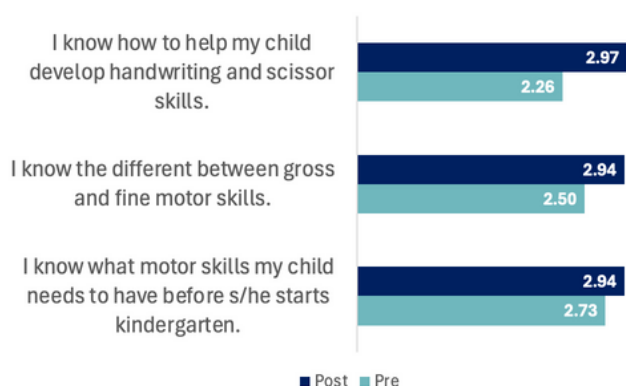


Figure 4. Participant knowledge of math-related kindergarten readiness skills

Participants increased knowledge of how to help their child count and recognize numbers and about one-to-one correspondence.

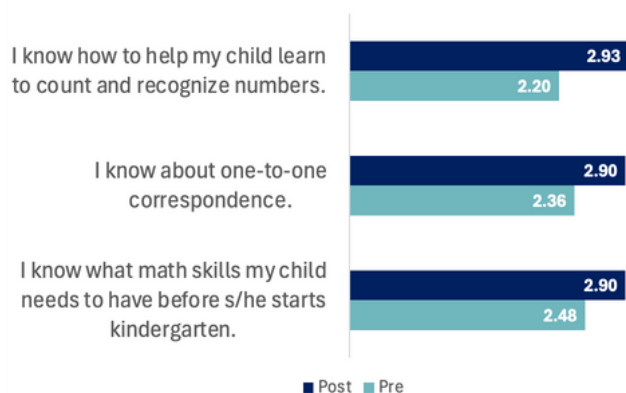


Figure 1. Participant knowledge of social/emotional related kindergarten readiness skills

Participants left with greater knowledge of how to support their child's executive function skills.

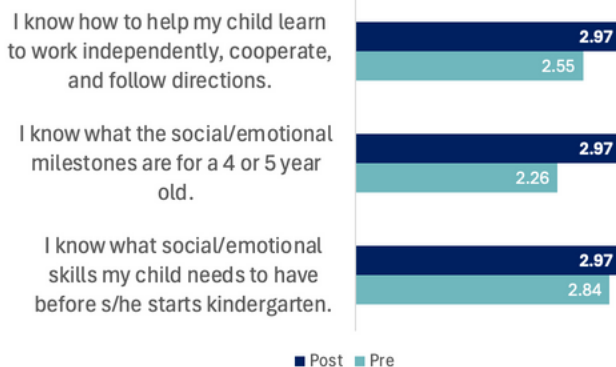


Figure 3. Participant knowledge of language-related kindergarten readiness skills

Participants increased knowledge of how to help their child develop language skills necessary for kindergarten.

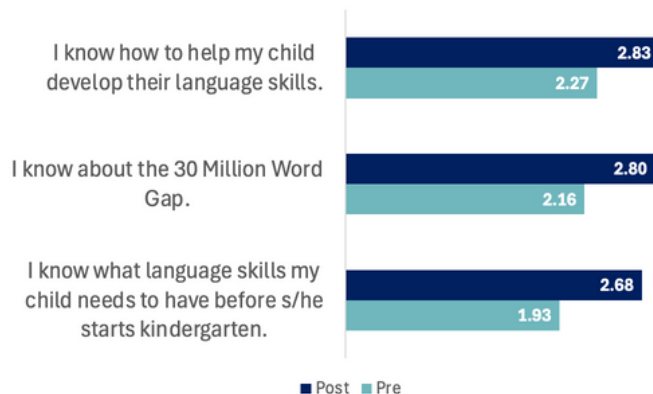


Figure 5. Participant knowledge of reading and writing-related kindergarten readiness skills

Participants increased knowledge of how to help their child learn to read and write.

