



Project C-STARS Newsletter



**Culture, Child, and Adolescent
Developmental Lab**
University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Thank You for Your Participation!

Volume 2
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The members of Project C-STARS sincerely thank all the parent and children participants for the time and effort you have contributed to our project. Your participation makes this important project possible and your continued involvement is crucial for the upcoming year. We would also like to thank all the school teachers, daycare providers and all the organizations that have participated and who have helped in recruiting family members.

We value your participation and think that it is important to share with you information and updates about our project. To show our appreciation for your participation, we have included the following information in this newsletter:

- The progress of Project C-STARS
- The Importance of focusing on Korean Preschoolers
- How children in the families are developing
- Parents' Social Support
- Parents' Long-term Goals for their Children

Progress of Project C-STARS

Project C-STARS aims to understand how families change over time. This is why we visit each family 4 times within 2 years. So far, we have visited 81 families for the 1st time, 51 families for the 2nd, and 15 families for the 3rd time. We are continuing to recruit new families and visit the already participating families for the 2nd and 3rd times. We will start to visit some families for the 4th time in 2008.

The Importance of Focusing on Korean Preschoolers

Social and emotional development during early childhood is crucial for success in school transition and long-term healthy development. Preschoolers are showing rapid development which makes them more vulnerable to develop desired and undesired behaviors in such a short period of time.

When preschool children are put into a new environment (for example school) they need to

find ways to adjust well with others who are also learning to adjust to the new environment. Being Korean children living in the United States, it might be harder for them to adjust socially and emotionally in schools because they may be interacting with children from all different backgrounds for the first time, and need to learn new social rules from their peers and teachers. Therefore, in order to

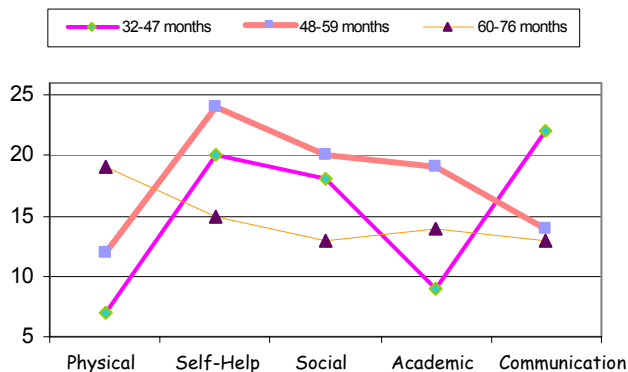
succeed in school, Korean preschoolers need to develop competent social and emotional skills.

Thus, Project C-STARS aims to understand the social and emotional development amongst Korean children. Our ultimate goal is to apply the knowledge we gain in this project to enhance the social skills of Korean children. By doing so, we hope to promote success amongst Korean children in schools.

What Are Some of the Things that We Have Learned So Far?

How does the development of children in C-STARS compare to children across the U.S.?

Five Aspects of Children's Development



In order to learn how our Korean children are developing, we asked their parents how their children were doing in the areas of:

Physical Development: ability to perform tasks that require muscle coordination, strength, stamina, flexibility, and sequential motor skills

Self-Help Development: ability to handle basic self-care tasks such as eating, dressing, and working

Social Development: interpersonal relationship abilities

Academic Development: intellectual abilities

Communication Development: ability to understand and communicate with others by using both verbal languages and gestures

Compared to children across the U.S.

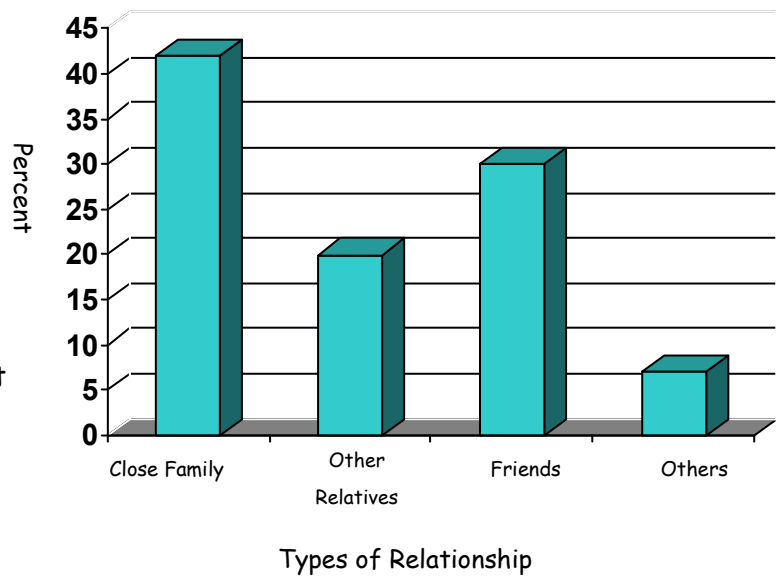
For children aged 32-47 months, C-STARS children are on average 7 months more advanced in *physical*, 20 months in *self-help*, 18 months in *social*, 9 months in *academic*, and 22 months in *communication* development. For children aged 48-59 months, C-STARS children are on average 12 months advanced in *physical*, 24 months in *self-help*, 20 months in *social*, 19 months in *academic*, and 14 months in *communication* development. For children aged 60-76 months, C-STARS children on average are 19 months advanced in *physical*, 15 months in *self-help*, 13 months in *social*, 14 months in *academic*, and 13 months in *communication* development.

Parents' Social Support

We learned where our C-STARS Korean parents get support from to help them be better parents. Our parents said that their spouses were the most supportive and helpful with being parents. Reading materials (e.g. books, parenting magazines) were said to be the second most helpful source for parenting information. Finally, friends and neighbors were the third supportive source.

We also asked parents who were important people in their lives. Our mothers said that 43% of the important people in their lives are close family members, 30% are friends, 20% are other relatives, and 7% are doctors, teachers, etc.

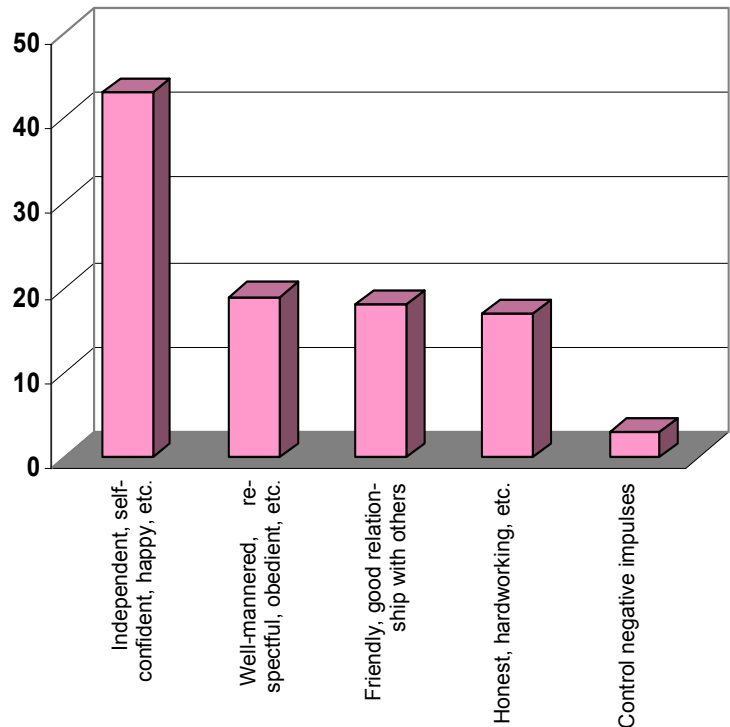
Parents' Social Networks



Korean Parents' Long Term Goals for Their Children

As a part of our project, we also interviewed parents about their long-term goals for their children during our first visit. We asked them what kind of characteristics they want their children have. First of all, most of our parents (43%) wanted their children to be self-confident, healthy, happy, and independent. Second, 19% of the parents wanted their children to be well-mannered, respectful, and obedient. Third, 18% of the parents wanted their children to be friendly and able to maintain close, affectionate relationships with others. Next, 17% of them reported goals for children such as having the ability to meet basic social standards, being hardworking and honest, and not displaying illicit behavior. Finally, 3% of mothers wanted their children to have the ability to control negative impulses and behaviors toward greed, aggression and egocentrism.

Parents' Long Term Socialization Goals





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In the Culture, Child, and Adolescent Development (CCAD) Lab, we are interested in understanding and learning about families with young children from different cultures.

Members in the CCAD lab are interested in how individual, peer, family, culture, and their interaction contribute to the social emotional development and health of children. We aim to increase and contribute to scientific and applied knowledge in children and adolescents' social and emotional development.

PLEASE SEE OUR LABORATORY WEBSITE
FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ALL OUR
PROJECTS (www.umbc.edu/psych/ccadlab)

Contact us!

If you have any feedback, questions, suggestions, and/or ideas regarding our project, please contact us. We value your input.

Community Resource

The Cultural Connections Program at the Miller Branch of Howard County Library provides multicultural activities and resources, such as bilingual story times for preschoolers (in Korean and Chinese), and an English Conversation Club for adults whose first language is not English. The library also offers books and movies for all ages, as well as newspapers, magazines, etc., in multiple foreign languages. For further information, please visit http://www.hclibrary.org/services/cultural_connections_eng.php

Members of Project C-STARS

Principle Investigator

Dr. Charissa Cheah is an Assistant Professor in the Applied Developmental Program at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. She has been awarded a fellowship by the Foundation for Child Development: Changing Faces of America's Children - Young Scholars Program (YSP) for Project C-STARS.

For more information on Dr. Charissa Cheah, please visit <http://www.umbc.edu/psyc/personal/cheah/cheahs.html>

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We are all excited to be working with you!!!

Help us!

The success of Project C-STARS depends on your help in 1) continue to participate in our project through the 4th visit so that we all have a clearer understanding of be representative of the development of Korean children living in the USA 2) recommending more Korean families to join our project so that what we learn will experiences of all Korean families in MD. If you know other Korean parents with young children aged 3-5 years old, please refer them to us. We appreciate any help you can provide us with and hope that this project will be as educational for you as it has been for us.