

Head Start Graduate Student Research Program: 2007 Research Scholars

Amy M. Casey, M.Ed.

Project Title:

Receipt of feedback as a predictor of teachers' use of recommended practices

Mentor :

R.A. McWilliam, Ph.D.

Project Funding Years:

2007-2009

University Affiliation:

Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Project Abstract:

Vanderbilt University Medical Center will examine the current supervision and feedback practices in Head Start and childcare centers from teachers' perspectives. The specific aim of the study is to determine whether performance feedback is being used nationwide and whether teachers who receive performance feedback are more likely to use recommended practices. A questionnaire assessing use of recommended practices and receipt of feedback will be mailed to a nationwide sample of 1,824 teachers from Head Start programs and programs accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. The effect of feedback on teachers' use of recommended practices will be examined. It is expected that results from this study will provide information about preferred supervision strategies, how performance feedback is being used by teachers, and whether teachers are more likely to use recommended practices when they receive feedback about their behavior in the classroom.

Sample:

150 lead and assistant Head Start teachers (field test)

16 Head Start teachers (focus groups)

1,824 preschool teachers from Head Start programs and programs accredited by NAEYC (survey)

Measures:

Author developed receipt of feedback and use of recommended practices questionnaire