Head Start & School Readiness

CAS 140/L Jumpstart
Fall 2004

Fieldwork News: Checking In

• Class business:
  - Fieldwork forms
  - Books/readings
  - Reflection papers
  - Photos
• Fieldwork info:
  - Sign-up for Children's Book Festival
  - Postponement of OCAEYC event
  - Team planning

Exercise: Group Discussion

• Consider your observations
  - What was most noteworthy?
  - What was most surprising?
• What does it tell you about interacting with young children?
Head Start

- Enrollment
  - Primarily 3&4 year olds
  - Majority Hispanic
  - Majority bilingual
  - 10% + with special needs
- Program
  - Primarily “half-day”
  - Health & nutrition
  - Family services

Orange County Context

- Large # of young children
- Concentrations of low income
- Issues of access:
  - Location
  - Language
  - Hours
  - Philosophy
Low-Income Children 0-5

Ethnicity: Orange County (all ages)

Ethnicity: Orange County Head Start
Relating Head Start to School Readiness

- Head Start designed
  - Promote optimal child development
  - Facilitate effective parenting
- Current focus
  - Enable parent work
  - Facilitate family functioning
  - Achieve mandated child outcomes
  - Support kindergarten transition

Building Blocks for School Readiness
Adapted from the National Education Goals Panel

Predicting School Success

- Age for grade
- Retention in grade
- Literacy development
- Teacher perception
  - Communication skills
  - Social/self-regulation skills
Components of Language
- Vocabulary
- Grammar
- Communication strategies

Components of Reading
- Knowledge of books
- Knowledge of letters
  - Direction
  - Spacing/chunking
- Letter-sound matching (phonetics)
- Sound recognition (phonemics)