

# Elevate PreK Data Shareout



**Institute for  
Child Success**

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# Evaluation Design and Timeline

Cohort	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Coh 1	<b>1 class - Flagstaff</b>			Follow up using K, Gr1, Gr2 data
Coh 2		<b>2 classes - Flagstaff</b>		Follow up using K, Gr1 data
Coh 3			<b>1 class – Flagstaff 1 class – Page</b>	Follow up using K data
Coh 4				<b>1 class – Flagstaff</b>
Matched Comparison				Follow up using K, Gr1, Gr2 data, as appropriate

Note: **Bolded text** represents implementation of EPK; *Italicized text* represents extant data collection as part of longitudinal study

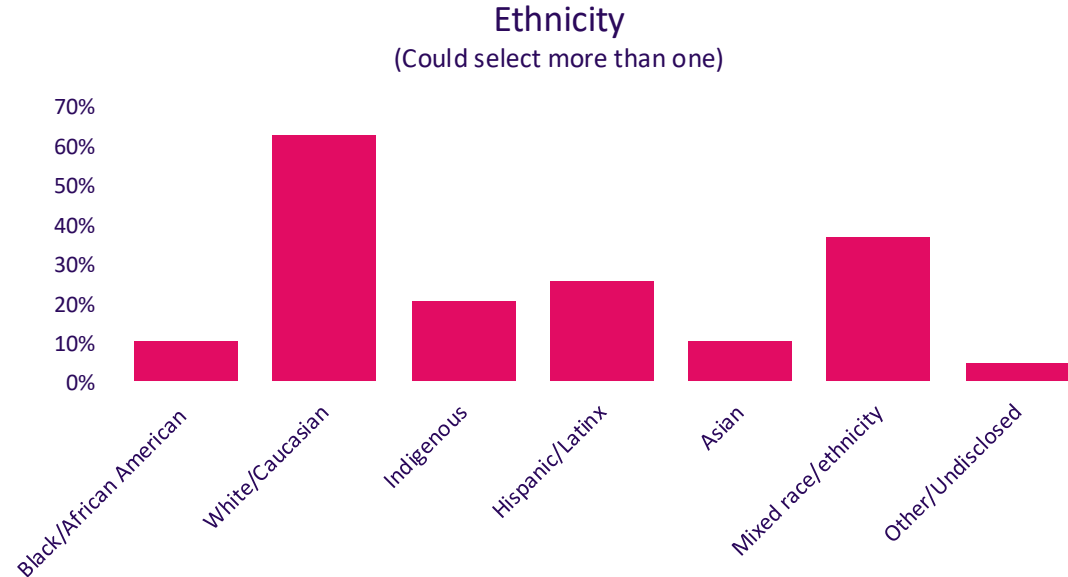
# Population & Methods



Flagstaff 2023-24

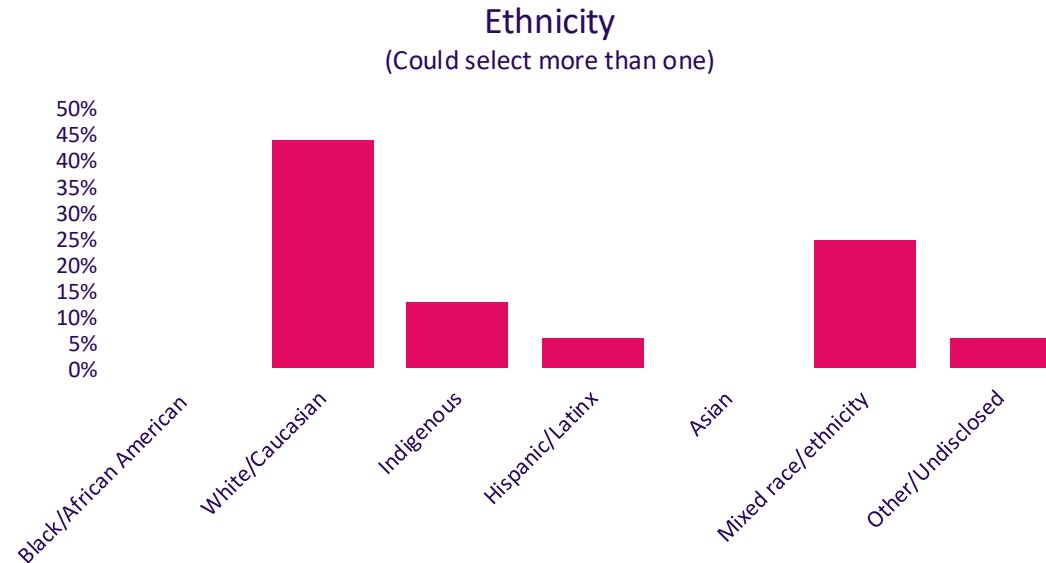
# Child Profiles

- 8 boys and 11 girls
- Age range: 4 - 5.5 years old
- 1 child with special needs/disability

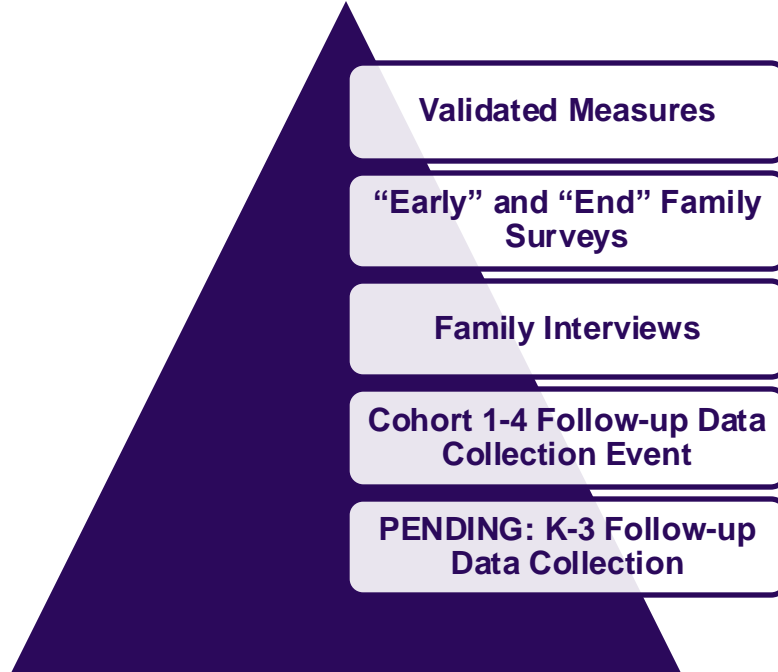


# Parent Profiles

- 15 maternal caregivers, 1 paternal caregiver
- Average age: 35 years old
- 1/3 of parents have some college education
- At the beginning of the year, roughly 50% of parents employed full-time
- Average gross annual income: \$66,331



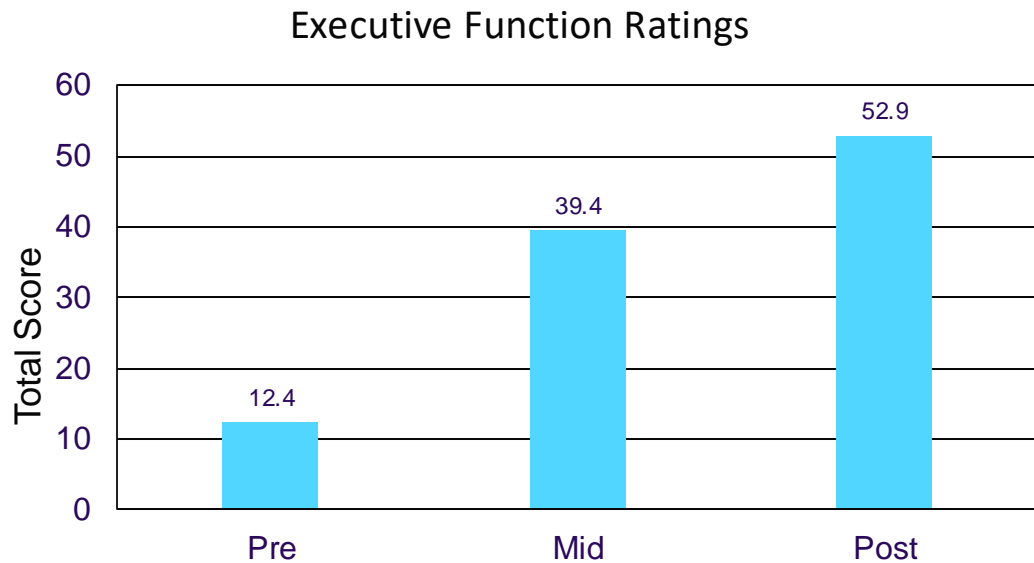
# Overview of 2023-24 Evaluation Methods



# Impact on Children



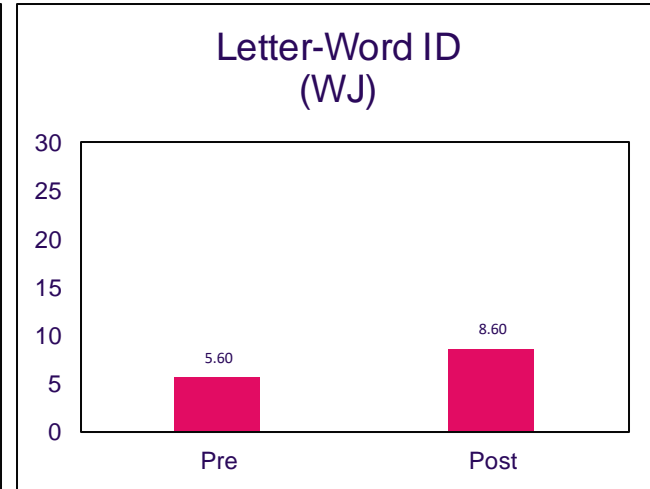
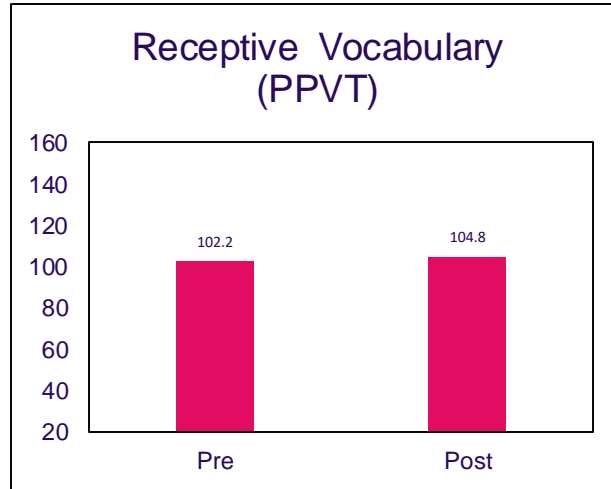
# Executive Function



- Measured using Head Toes Knees Shoulders (HTKS) task - Assesses children's ability to control behavior and follow directions
- Improvements in executive function across 3 testing timepoints



# Early Literacy



- Measured using vocab subtest of Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test (PPVT) and letter-word identification subtest of Woodcock-Johnson (WJ)
- Minimal, non-significant change from pre to post

# Child's Curiosity, Interest in Books/Print, and Focus



## Improved curiosity in children

83% endorsed curiosity improved because of EPK



## Increased interest in books and print

FAR more parents said “extremely interested” and “very interested” at end



## Improved ability to adhere to directions and maintain focus

37% increase in ratings of “very well” or “extremely well”



83% reported child is more interested in learning because of EPK

## Ability to get along with adults and children improved!

Ability to get along with adults  
Very to extremely well

76.4%



92.8%

Ability to get along with children  
Very to extremely well

64.7%



85.7%

Families noted  
dramatic changes  
in emotional and  
self-regulation  
skills

## Child's Social-Emotional skills

**2x** increase in  
self-control

**61%**  increase in managing and  
communicating their feelings

**55%**  increase in self soothing/or and self  
calming techniques

All data points reflect responses “very well” and “extremely well”

## How did Cohort 3 child effects compare to others?

- Similar families served in Flagstaff
- Quality of the program improved over time.
- Cohort 3 children made far greater growth in executive function skills, but not other academic measures



## Themes re: Benefits to Children



# Family Thoughts about Benefits to Children

He has become a lot more verbal. He didn't talk a lot before preschool and now **he can clearly (mostly) verbalize his thoughts. He has learned a lot of his letters and numbers and has been very good at expressing himself creatively and through play.**

I believe EPK has prepared my child for kindergarten. **He loves school and learned to learn at EPK.**



**EPK allowed my daughter to gain some "school" experience** as she has been home with my [spouse] since she was born without being able to afford any social or recreational programs.



[Child] is a more social with her peers and used to be very shy and she comes home and tells me what all she learns at school now and she loves playing soccer and thriving she loves to learn. **Her soon-to-be kindergarten teacher is very impressed** with her knowledge and how she can use scissors now and can count to 20 and all her ABCs and identifying her name letters and sounds.

# Summary: Implications of Child Data

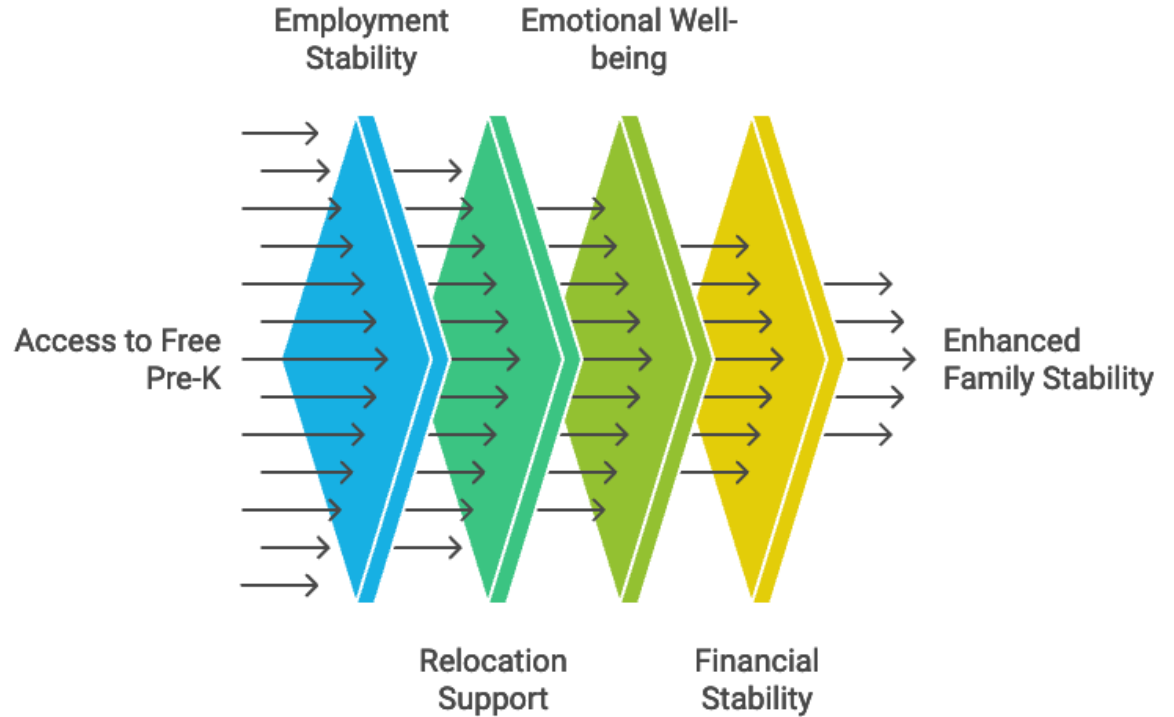




# Impact on Family



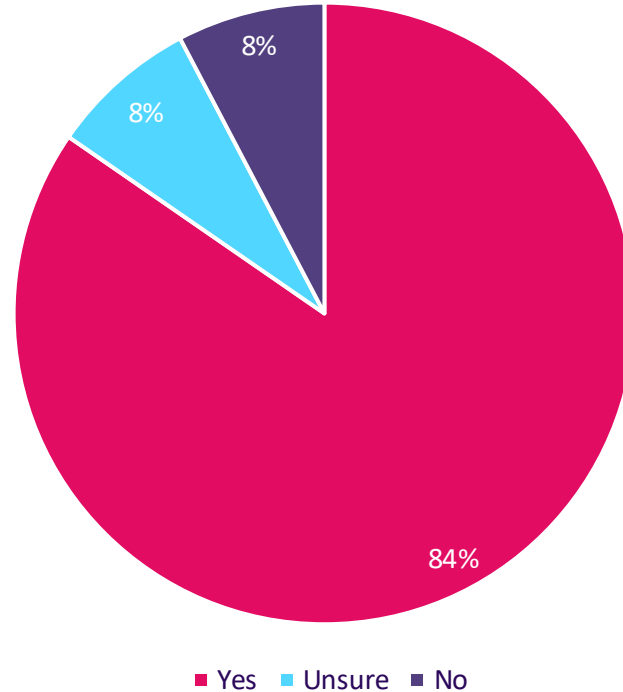
# Themes re: Benefits to Adults and Families



# EPK Affected Ability to Stay in Flagstaff

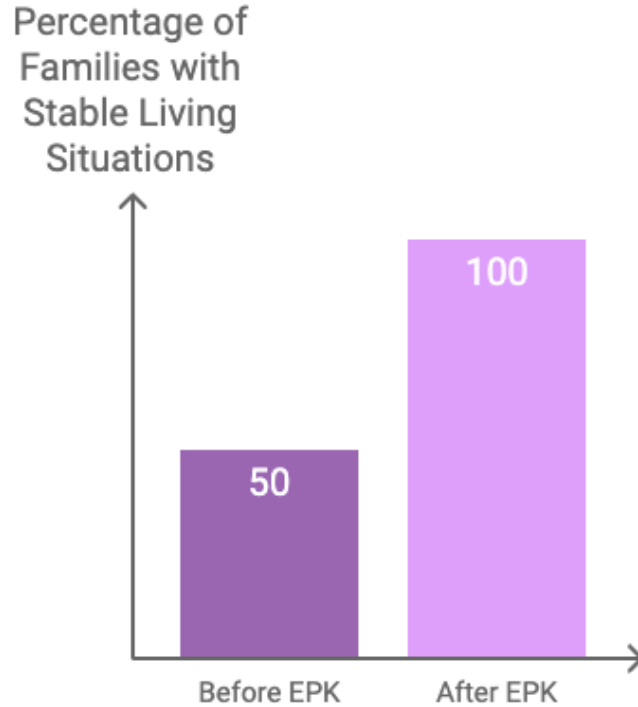
**Has EPK  
affected/influenced  
your family's ability to  
remain in this part of  
Arizona?**

Families felt EPK affected their ability to stay in Flagstaff



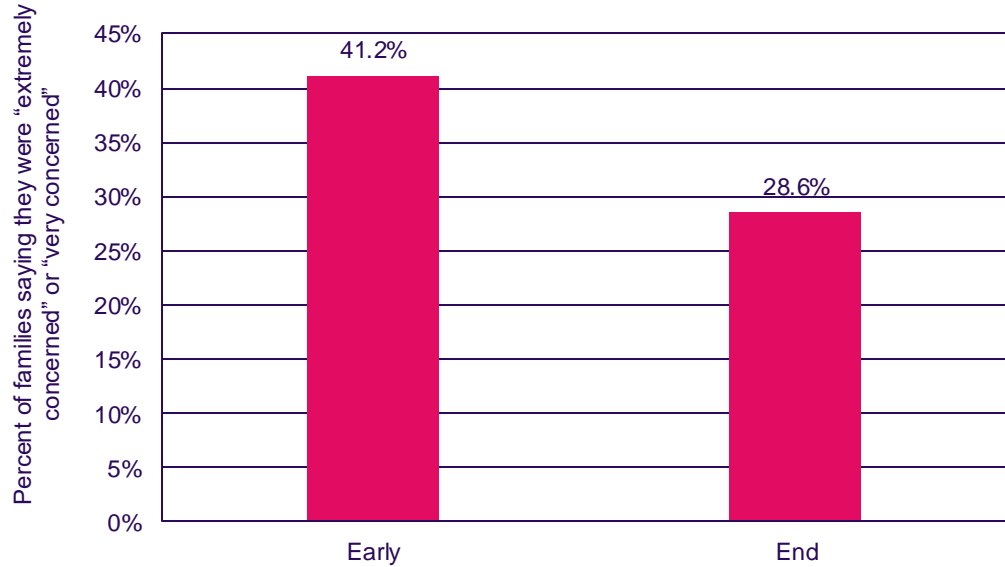
## Stability of Living Situation

During EPK, the number of families rating their living situation as stable or very stable doubled to 100%



## Concern about Remaining in Arizona

Intensity of concern about remaining in Arizona decreased

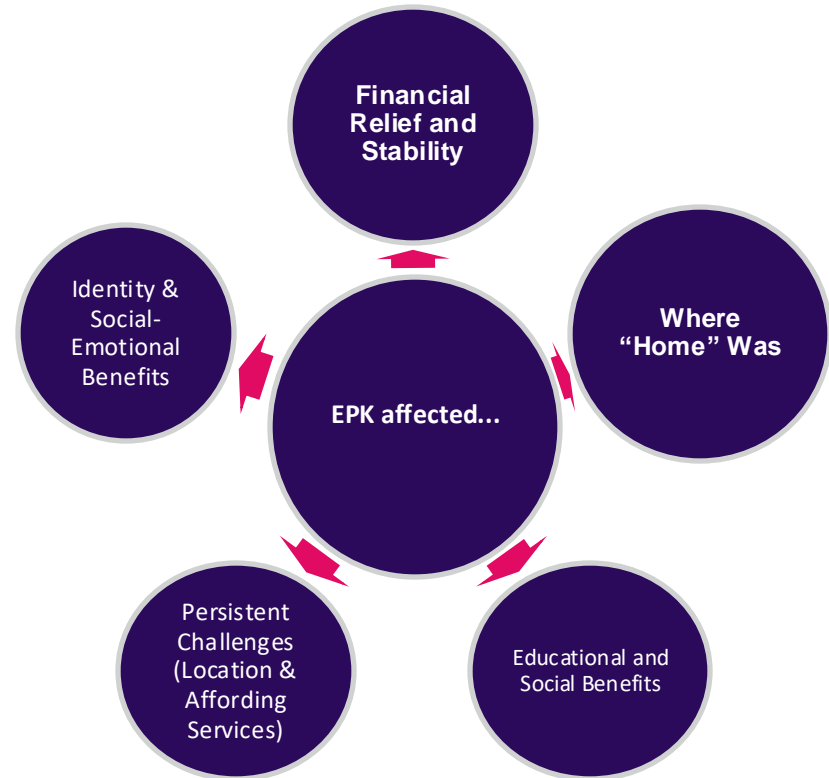


# EPKs Impact on Ability to Stay in Flagstaff

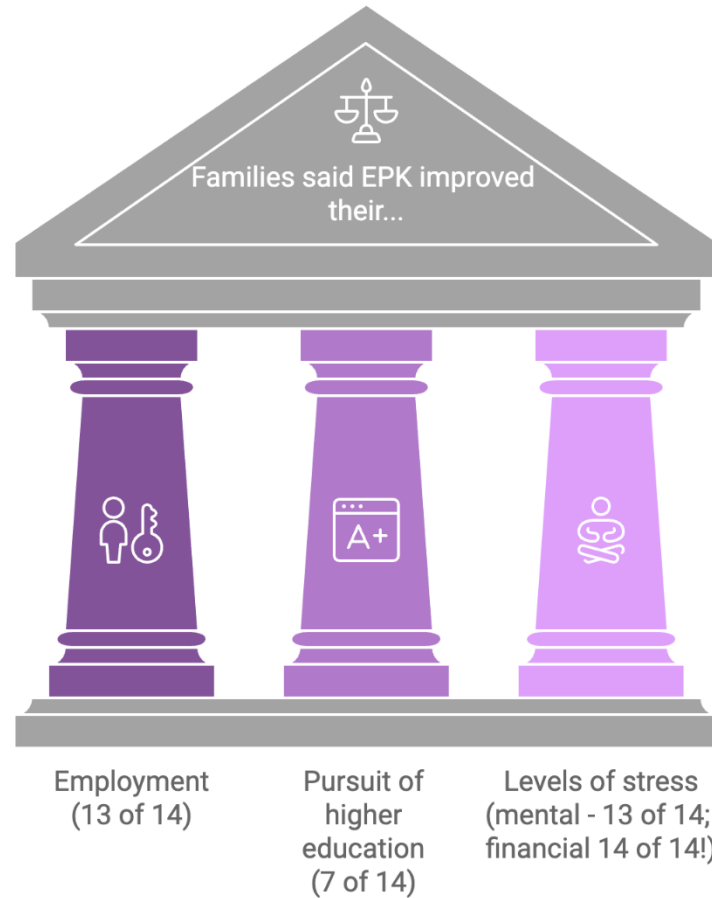
If we didn't have free pre-K during this past year with a single income, we would have been forced to move to a different location.

Flexible schedule and cost allowed [spouse] to get further with her job. I now have an even more stable job here and expect to stay for a long time.

When asked how EPK affected their ability to stay in Flagstaff, families brought up these these themes:

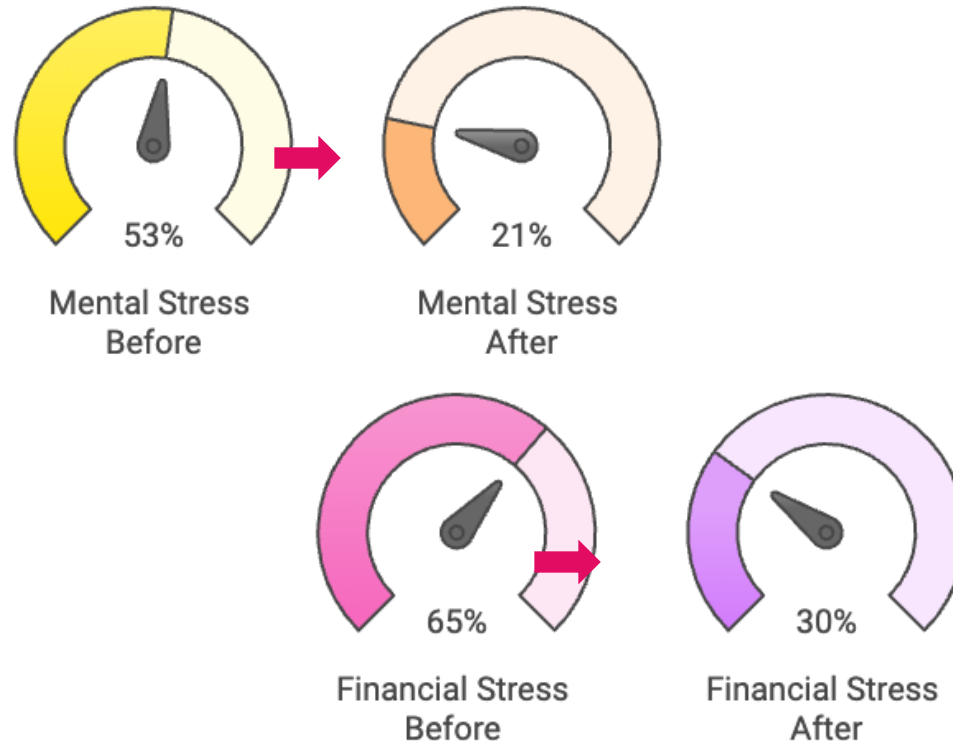


EPK improved  
employment,  
education & stress



## Impact on Stress Levels

On our project survey, families' reporting of "very high" / "high" levels of stress was cut by half





# Improvement in Community Engagement

“ We met two other families through EPK, one of which we have been able to have time together outside of school (the other family moved away).”

11 of 13 families indicated EPK improved their....



interactions with others in the Flagstaff community



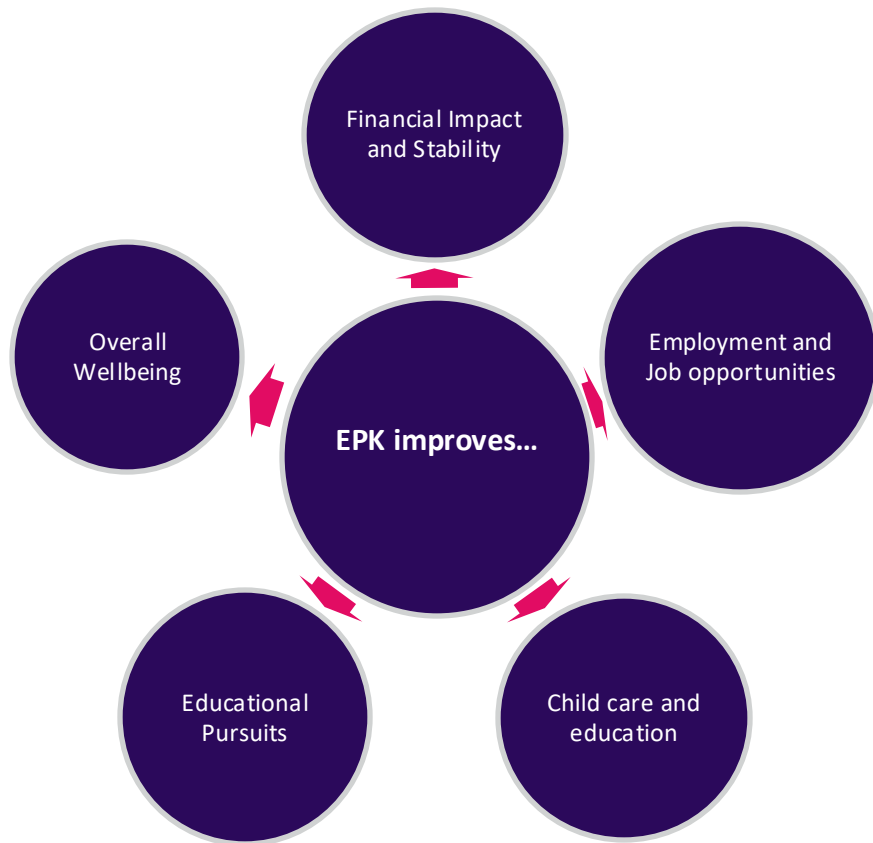
ability to actively participate in – or contribute to - the Flagstaff community



feeling part of the Flagstaff community

# Improvement in Family Circumstances

When asked how EPK improved their family circumstances, families raised these themes:



## Common themes – few quotes

### Parents' employment increased/upward mobility

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Finding full day for our daughter ... allows for **both parents in the household to have full-time employment**

Being a business owner, it's helping to not have to worry about entertaining and teaching [child] all day long...**[I can] work,**

I was **able to obtain a few job positions that I wouldn't have** if [child] wasn't in Preschool.

Getting [child] full day care contributed to our **steady attendance at work.**

### Financial Well-being

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I was able to **dedicate more time to my current job**, which has actually helped improve my mental health regarding my job. It is hard to work from home, self-employed when you are distracted with childcare.

[If not for EPK,] we would have really struggled to pay for [both kids' daycare;] we **would have gone into debt** or [spouse] **wouldn't have been able to work so much.**

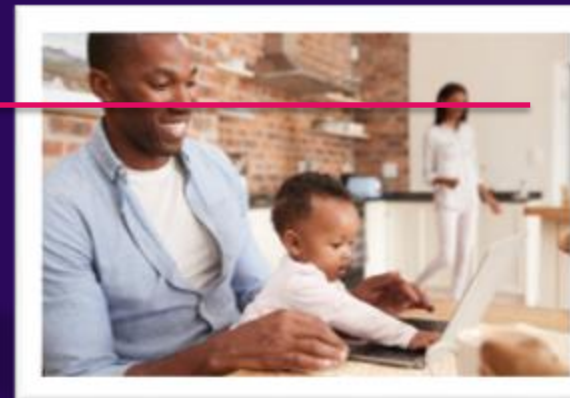
It (EPK) took financial burden off of us.

### Housing

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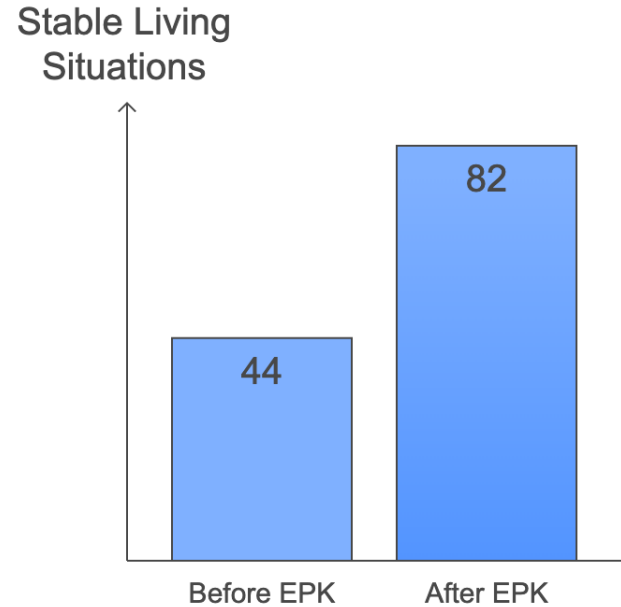
Because of EPK we were able to continue saving money and **afford a house this year.**

The reduction of financial burden by providing free preschool has helped me greatly by helping me **acquire stable housing.**



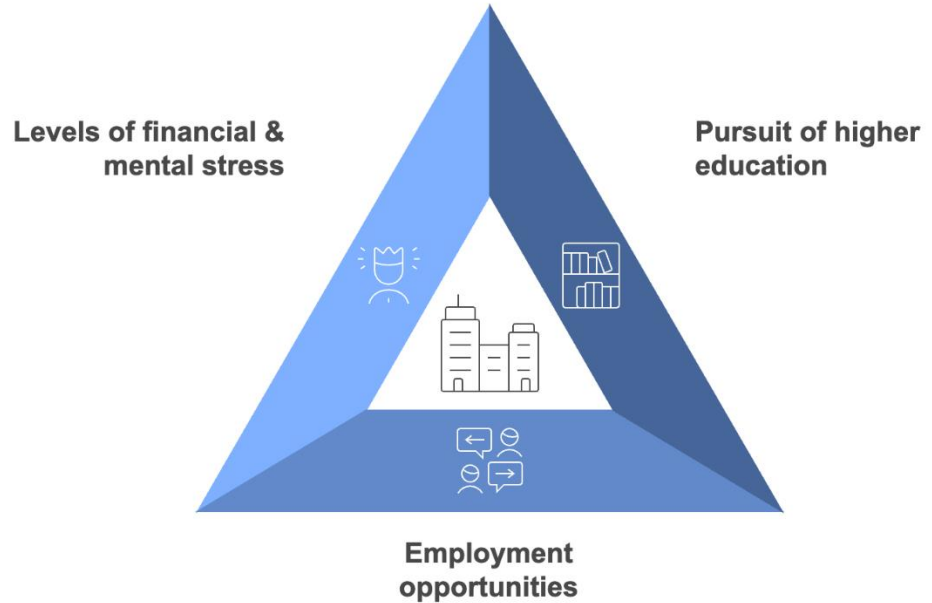
## Stability of Living Situation - Page

During EPK, the number of families rating their living situation as “very stable” or “stable” nearly doubled to 82%



# EPK Improved employment, education & stress - Page

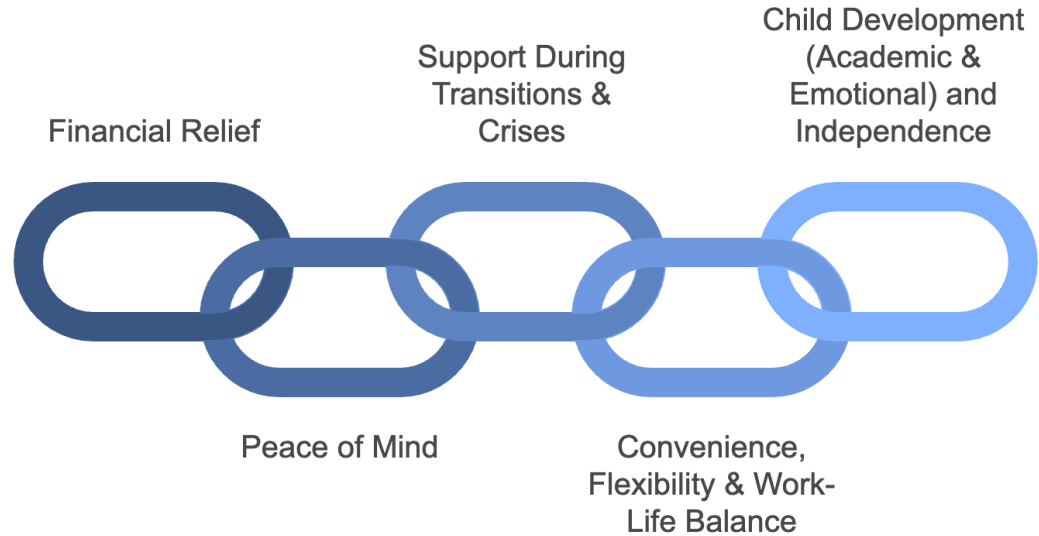
Nearly all families said EPK improved each  
of the following



# EPK Improved Family Circumstances & Made Life Easier - Page

EPK has reduced the financial stress [and offers] extended hours so that I can work and have at least 1 hour of extra time to get some of my online school done before I have to pick up my child.

Have been able to work and not worry about my daughter getting the care she need.



# Summary: Implications of Family Data (Flagstaff & Page)



## Evaluation next steps

- Longitudinal study data collection





# Parents summed up the impact and need for universal pre-k

*EPK was one of the best things that happened for us. We not only saved money up to afford a down payment on a home but we also made some parent friends, had a great support system through the school, and our son absolutely loved going there.*

*Universal preschool should be a thing. Being an older and new parent, I am surprised at how little is out there to help parents. How unless you have family, there isn't that much help. But EPK definitely helped us while we were in Flagstaff. Excellent program!*

Thanks for  
listening and to...



Q

&

A

Questions? Comments?



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