

The Importance of adult-child ratios in the Academic Development on Young Children

Course 210: Dr. Guirguis

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Abstract

This paper will talk about the adult-child ratios and how is a big issue in the academic development in early childhood education and how it has impacted many families, teachers and children. Young children need one on one time with their teachers and with a big student to teacher ratio that is not possible. The lack of bonding between the child and teacher that should be in the classroom to help with educational bounding for all off their future schooling is something that many students are being deprive o people of classroom ratios that have been set into place. In this paper, we will see that not only do the children get a lot out of smaller classroom sizes but the teachers as well. They get to interact more with their students to evaluate if what they are teaching is interesting to all of their students, if not what changed can they makes. All children should have the right to the same class ratios and it not depend on what district they are in. This issue will be of interest to local governments, school directors, teachers, and parents, interested in child to adult ratios. Hopefully they can see that these ratios are affecting many young children's educational lives so together we can take action and fight against this injustice.

The Importance of adult-child ratios on Young Children

Adult to child ratios in Early Childhood classrooms are important because it affects children's academic development. According to Friendly, Ferns, and Prabhu (2009) adult to child ratios, "it is also clear that the adult: child ratio is not the sole quality-determining element" (Friendly, Ferns, and Prabhu". According to Ratios for four- and five-year old's: What does the research say? What else is important, " Generally, the research shows better ratios during preschool/kindergarten (children aged approximately 4-5 years) to be associated with higher

developmental outcomes, although other factors such as teacher qualifications and group size are found to be inextricably linked..." (Friendly, Ferns, and Prabhu). "The study found that ratio has an impact on teachers' ability to give individual learning support, teachers' management techniques, and teacher stress" (Friendly, Ferns, and Prabhu). In addition, several studies point out that the child population (that is, low income or special needs) also mediates the impact of ratios (Friendly, Ferns, and Prabhu). An early childhood education is one of the most important steppingstones in a child's education and the attention that is paid to the type of education that they receive based off of the class ratio will be helpful as it prepares them as they further their education.

Statement of the Problem

The problem is the lack of representation for children and their families of lower income when they are trying to get their children into good schools. The children and their families are affected. They are affected because the children are innocent through everything and the parents are affected as well because without the right help these lower-income families can't get their children into good schools and the schools are not going to help them get representation. This needs to be addressed because for many years low-income children have been overlooked to getting a better education just because of the tax bracket their parents are in that does not mean that face though not smart enough to get into different schools then what was expected they would go to. That is another reason why this issue needs to be addressed because just because you live in a certain community or you come from a certain tax bracket doesn't mean that you don't deserve better and that's what these kids deserve. These kids deserve better than what they are handed.

The problem is greatest in lower-income communities where mostly the parents don't have the education to properly advocate for their children. Before any type of conversation happens, each family should have representation so that they won't be taken advantage of because they don't know something. A type of intervention that is needed is a meeting where it's decided that whenever a family is coming into a conversation about their child's schooling that someone is automatically going to be there to represent them. The representation should be someone that will stand up for them to make sure that their child is getting taken care of and not just saying whatever that representative wants to hear and not actually helping them. Legal guidance is my targeted audience who are willing to help out families and children to get the best education that they possibly can. They are in a position to help because they would be willing to translate and fight hard to pour these children out because they are innocent in this whole thing.

Research

Research suggests that the importance of adult to child ratios in academy development on young children is a current concern to the early childhood fields. Researches shows us that adult to child ratios is having a negative effect on students' development and education.

Article 1

In the article, "Choosing the right childcare: staff Ratios" Kayla Eggert talks about 4 important reasons why student to teacher ratios are important, then gives tips on what centers could do to help fix the problem. She mentions that when there is more than one teacher present in the classroom teaching it improves the quality of the care that they children are receiving. She also talks about how based off of her history as a teacher it's not just a good setup for the children but also for the teacher as well because of problem that could a raise when only one

teacher is left teaching the class or just even the non-child language you can have with another adult. The main ideas of this article were safety, abuse prevention, relationships and quality of care. The thought of abuse prevention as something that is something that is important when it comes to staff ratio was never a thought until this article was read. The section about abuse prevention explained how having another teacher in the room is helpful to not only their fellow teacher if a child says something that could incriminate a teacher, it could also help keep the children from not feeling neglected as well by their teacher or even shaken baby syndrome. That ties into the section about safety because in the reading it states that all children not just toddlers need adult supervision and they can't have that type of supervision if there is only one teacher in the classroom with a lot of students there has to be at least 2 teachers per classroom.

The purpose of the article is a little bit of both to inform the readers why their needs to be more than one teacher in the classroom. The way that this article is being informative is through the different examples she gave as to why it's important to have more than one teacher present in the classroom. In the article she even offers some tips to centers on how they can have 2 teachers in each classroom. I selected this article because I believe that having more than one teacher in the classroom allows for the teachers to be held accountable for their actions. These actions happen to be the main points as to why 2 teachers are a must in the classroom. In the article it states, "When there are enough teachers in the classroom, they're more likely to be able to implement a high-quality curriculum to help children learn and grow". What this means is that when more teachers are able to come together, they are able to expand what they are doing to teach their students more. Also, the author talks about relationships and how, "By keeping staff-to-child ratios low, staff members will be able to bond and nurture the children they care

for”. That shows that kids need a lot of attention and with that attention from their teachers that they could get if there was 2 in the classroom it could help them in the classroom.

Article 2

In the article it talks about a study that is being done by the Campbell review to collect data on the impact of adult to child ratio and group size and how it affects a child’s quality of care. They talked about the problems in childcare and compared it to other countries such as Belgium, Turkey and Denmark. The article lastly talked about the analysis that they were going to do to figure out the evaluate the association between child-staff ratios and children's outcomes. The main idea of this article is to give information behind the study that day are doing and what it's about. What the study is about is how group sizes and adult to child ratios have an impact on the child’s development and their well-being in their early childhood classrooms. This is connected because if children are getting unintentionally overlooked by their teachers because there is only 1 teacher to 18 children that affects the way children will interact with their teachers now and in the future as well.

The authors purpose is to inform the readers about how group sizes and adult to child ratios have an impact on the child’s development and their well-being in their early childhood classrooms. This group's stance on this is believing that smaller group sizes are better based off of the information that they have gathered before. They are excluding out certain groups such as children that live in foster homes or institutions. They excluded them because they wanted a contrast of children without being taken care of by their teachers in the day but we're going home to their parents at night compared to children that are being taken care of by “nonparents” all day long. That could be a bias because what is one of the children in your samples was adopted

wouldn't that be the same as being taken care of by non-parents or are, they are being seen as their parents because they adopted them. I selected this article because I was interested in the study that was being done and I liked how they kind of tied in other countries with the data that they collected beforehand to compare it with. What can be learned from this study is that there are different factors that can affect a child in the classroom when it comes to adults so we as educators have to try and help them as much as we can and remember they're just children. "Previous studies further suggest that when fewer adults are in charge of a larger group of children, the caregivers become more focused on managing and controlling the children's behavior". This makes sense because adults need to show the kids that they are in charge of them and when it's only one being put in front of a large group of children. If the teacher doesn't in a way assert dominance over them, they will walk all over you, which is why in a classroom there should be to so that it won't feel like so much pressure and they don't have to be as tense.

Article 3

This article was about the different ratios the UK and France use but also would they prioritize when it comes to learning and how that's different. French nurseries are putting more emphasis on preparing young children for school by creating a very structured environment. The author of this article doesn't place what she believes she is just reporting what she watched. It does seem though like she favors the French approach more because in her title it says the French perspective. In France they believe more in getting the nursery students ready for school by putting more emphasis on structured environments. In the UK they put more emphasis on child led play and learning through that. "Mrs. Truss believes that the standard of early years education in the UK needs to be improved and that the key to success is strong teacher

leadership” In that quote that shows that the teachers are not as educated as they believe they should be teaching younger children but if they were to change to the French method then it would drive higher educated teachers into the classroom.

The authors purpose is to inform us about the two different methods that France and the UK use to teach their children. in a way though it seems like she's is more on the French side then you case that when it comes to this matter based off of the title of this article. I chose this article because I likes the conversation about the difference between the French in the UK's approach on early childhood learning practices. “It should be noted that linked to this debate is a deeper philosophical issue about the appropriate nature of early years education”. This quote was interesting to me because I learned when it comes to early childhood you would think that most if not all countries had in a way kind of similar values on ways that children should learn but they don't different things can dictate what certain measures are put in place.

Small Advocacy Action

One step that I could take to help resolve this issue is to talk to the parents of my students. I would have a conversation with them to explain why I think that smaller class sizes would benefit not only their students but all present and future students. During class time I would figure out ways to have more small group work time to get to help out each of my students more personally. I would also offer after school small group sessions to the students if they feel like they need any help or questions that they could not ask in a big group setting. A small group setting will also help the teacher(s) and children get better connected and the children will in the long run will get a better education. This will help out the parents because

parents won't have to worry about if their child is getting the attention that they might need in class if the classrooms are smaller.

Large Advocacy Action

The large advocacy action that I would do is going to school board meetings until they consider putting into effect smaller class size ratios. This would help not only the students with their education but also grow a better connection with their teacher which will be a big help with their future education. First, I would create a petition for the school and community to sign with the help of the parents. Then we as a whole would go around our community and try to get as many signatures as we possibly can. Before we would go, we would write up a letter that I would read to the committee as to why this is important. The parents would do their own research about why smaller class ratios are something that need to happen and share that along with their own anecdotes.

Lastly, the parents and I would go to school board meetings and show them that people want to see a change in a positive direction to help better the next generations' education. After that I would take this idea to other colleagues from different schools to ask them what they think about the idea and if they could help with getting more signatures. We then can go to the Department of Education with more support, statistics and signatures. That would lead to a discussion on what would be needed in order for smaller class ratios to happen and why it should be in all schools and not in just some schools. To help with that discussion I would ask colleagues to write up what they have noticed in the classrooms that they teach in or have observed that have smaller teacher-to-student ratios compared to the current ratios that are in effect now.

Commentary

I chose this topic because I thought back to my own childhood and my school experience in bigger classrooms and in smaller classrooms. This subject is meaningful to me because how until I transferred to an elementary school that had smaller classroom sizes and two teachers teaching the class, I notice a difference in an education that I was receiving. The teachers had a lot more patience. Since the teachers happened to have more time to get to know all of their students, we had a closer bond with them. This would impact me in how I try to manage my time between my students so that I can try and help all of them. This would also impact my interactions between my interactions with my student's parent(s). The interactions that I would have with the parent(s) is a level where they totally feel comfortable that I want the same as they do for their child and that I will be honest with them when it comes to their child's education which comes with having smaller classroom sizes.

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