**Findings**

The primary reason for this research was to examine if take-home activities at Head Start in three rural Virginia counties, Prince Edward County, Cumberland County, and Nottoway County would increase parental involvement. A series of analyses were performed, and the results are presented in Table 1-2 and Pearson’s Correlation. The first analysis examines the relationship between the assistance required and the overall family participation. The results are presented in Table 1.

Table 1

*T-Test of the Parental Data*

Paired Mean Sig t

Assistance required 7.62 1.435

Overall family participation 6.50 .108 1.656

*Note: p <0.5\*, p<0.01\*\*, p<0.001\*\*\**

Based on Table 1, the results shown give the difference between the means of respondent children requiring assistance from a parent set against the overall family participation in the activities. Through coding assistance required was on a continuous scale from 0-10, zero meaning not at all and ten being very much. In coding the overall family participation of the activities there were two categories to choose, yes (1), other people in the household participated, or no (2), only the child participated. Through a paired t-test of the parental involvement data, respondents with overall family participation was found to have a higher mean of 7.62. Compared to the respondents where the child required assistance had a mean of 6.5. Based on the t-test of the paired samples there is no significant difference between the means, p-value is .108 not less than 0.5.

The second analysis examines the correlation between assistance required and the improved relationship between the child/children and parent.

**Pearson’s Correlation**

How much parents improved their relationship was predicted by how much assistance was required in the activity. Both variables were measured on a 0-10 scale. The findings indicate that there is a weak negative correlation (r= -.087) between assistance required and the improved relationship of the parent and child/children. Simply put, the child/children who required assistance, had little to zero effect on improving the parent-child/children relationship. The researcher does not know if this would be true in a larger population.

The third analysis performed was bivariate, chi-squared, analysis. The chi-square analysis examines the relationship between family enjoyment and take-home activities at Head Start. The results of this analysis are represented in Table 2.

Table 2:

*Chi-squared Test for Assistance by Family Enjoyment of the Take-home Activities*

Without Assistance With Assistance

Did Not Enjoy 2 (33%) 2 (6%)

Enjoyed 4 (67%) 30 (94%)

*Note: X2 = 16.437, df = 10. Numbers in parentheses indicate column percentages. p<.05\*, p<.01\*\*, p<.001\*\**

Table 2 examines a nonparametric test of significance between the child/children who had assistance and their enjoyment of the take-home activities. Through recoding, family enjoyment of the activities measured on a continuous scale 0-10, was divided into 0-5.5, those who did not enjoy, 6-10 those who enjoyed. The child/children who had assistance or did not were coded as without assistance (1) and with assistance (2). Of those six respondents who did not give assistance to the child/children, 4 (67%) enjoyed the take-home activities and 2 (33%) did not enjoy the take-home activities. The child/children who had family assistance, 2 (6%) of respondents did not enjoy the take-home activities and 30 (94%) of respondents enjoyed the activities. Through the chi-squared test no significance difference was found between the child/children who had assistance from their family during the take-home activities and the overall enjoyment, with a p-value of .088 not less than .05.

**Conclusion**

The study of take-home activities at Head Start in three rural Virginia counties, Prince Edward County, Cumberland County, and Nottoway County would increase parental involvement. The analyses further examined parental involvement by the relation between enjoyment and assistance received by family, and improvement of the family relationship. Based on the findings through the series of analyses performed there was no significance difference found. The research had limitations, most significantly, the sample size was a small portion of the population of Head Start programs. Future research should include a larger population of Head Start programs that have used take-home activities to help improve parental involvement.