For this study, the research question was “will fun and short activities sent home with families encourage parental involvement and improve parent/child relationships in families with children ages 3-5 at Head Start?” The 3 tests below (Pearson’s correlation, ANOVA, and independent samples t-test) are all aimed at answering this research question.

For the Pearson’s Correlation, how many families enjoyed the noodle necklace activity was predicted by how much the activity helped to improve the parent/child relationship. Both variables were asked on a 0-10 scale. Findings indicate that there is a strong positive correlation (r=0.687) between how much the activity helped to improve the parent/child relationship and the amount the families enjoyed this activity. In other words, when families felt the parent/child relationship was improving, they enjoyed the activity more. The researcher does not know if this would be true in a larger population.

For the ANOVA test, we measured the dependent variable, “On a scale of 1-10, how much did this activity help to improve you and your child’s/children’s relationship? (0=none at all, 10=very much)” and the independent variable, “How long did it take you and your child/children to complete the activity?” This survey was meant to measure parent involvement in children from ages 3-5 attending the Head Start Program in Cumberland, Prince Edward, and Nottoway County. Thus, these variables measured how much one activity, the animal dice activity, helped to improve the parent’s relationship with their child/children, in addition to how long it took the parent and child to complete the activity.

After conducting the ANOVA test, the results yielded that the p value was 0.3037, indicating no significant difference between the means of improvement and amount of time at the .05 level. In other words, there was no significant relationship between how long it took parents and children to complete the activity and how much they indicated the activity helped to improve their relationship with their child/children.

Table I

*ANOVA of Improvement of Relationship by Amount of Time Spent*

Duration of Completion Mean S.D. Sum of Squares Mean of Squares F-value

0-10 Minutes 8.40 2.07 6.497 6.4968 1.0862

11-20 Minutes 7.90 2.81

21-30 Minutes 7.50 3.14

More than 30 9.63 1.21

*Note: p=.3037, p<.05\*, p<.01\*\*, p<.001\*\*\**

For the T-test, we examined the dependent variable, “How would you rate your current relationship with your child/children?” and the independent variable, “Did anyone else living in your household participate in any of the activities?” This survey was meant to measure parental involvement in children from ages 3-5 attending the Head Start Program in Cumberland, Prince Edward, and Nottoway County. Thus, these variables measured how each parent would rate their relationship with their child, in addition to if any other individuals living in the house participated in the activity.

After conducting the independent samples t-test, the results yielded that the p value was 0.2674, indicating no significant difference between the means at the .05 level. Therefore, we retain the null hypothesis at the .05 level. In other words, we found no significant difference between the how each parent would rate their relationship with their child and whether or not other members of the household participated.

Table I

*Independent Samples T-Test Result*

Variable Independent mean T value

Relationship Rating 9.714 1.1549

Participation 9.333

*Note: p<.05\*, p<.01\*\*, p<.001\*\*\**

To summarize these findings, the Pearson’s Correlation was the only test that had a significant finding in relation to the research question. This test indicated that when families felt their parent/child relationship was improving, they enjoyed the activity more. This finding supports the research question, as there’s a strong positive correlation between the variables listed above. Regarding the ANOVA and independent samples t-test, neither of these findings were found to be significant. The ANOVA test indicated there was no significant relationship between how long it took parents and children to complete the activity and how much they indicated the activity helped to improve their relationship with their child/children. The independent samples t-test indicated no significant difference between how each parent would rate their relationship with their child and whether or not other members of the household participated. Therefore, the research question was only supported by the Pearson’s Correlation findings, not the ANOVA or independent samples t-test, which is certainly not enough to claim that the research question is proven true.