**Data and Methodology**

**Instrument**

A survey questionnaire was created by the 40 members of the Social Research and Program Evaluation team at Longwood University. The survey contained both open-ended and close-ended questions. Items on the survey were designed to evaluate SMART objectives of each of five activities that were completed the previous week by Head Start families. Beyond the objectives of the activities, participants were asked about their experiences with Head Start, take home activities, and demographic information about their households.

**Sample**

The non-probability sample for this study was based on the 51 children (ages three to five) who attend Head Start in two rural counties in Virginia. After activities were sent home with children for five days, the questionnaire was sent home with all 51 students. Attached to the questionnaire was a children’s book, to incentivize families to return the survey. Guardians of the children were asked to complete the survey and return it to the Head Start teacher the following school day. \_\_\_\_ questionnaires were returned the next school day. Teachers then sent a reminder home with children to return any outstanding questionnaires. This resulted in \_\_\_\_ more questionnaires being returned. Overall, there was a \_\_\_\_\_% response rate.

**Quantitative Analysis**

Quantitative analysis of the returned surveys is based on the close-ended questions. For this study the dependent variable is parental involvement. The item from the questionnaire that was used to operationalize this was “How engaged was your child throughout the project?”. The answer choices for this item were “Scale 0-10, 0 = not at all, 10 = great amount”. The independent variable for this study is socioeconomic status. The item from the questionnaire that was used to operationalize this was “What is the highest degree of education anyone in your household has completed?”. The answer choices for this question were “Less than High School”, “High School”, “Some College”, “College degree or higher”, and “Prefer not to answer”. Descriptive statistics were used to analyze these variables.

**Qualitative Analysis**

 Qualitative analysis of the returned surveys is based on the open-ended questions. The open-ended questions on the survey were “What did your family enjoy most about these activities? (Please write in your response. Use the back sheet of paper if you run out of room)”, “What recommendations would you suggest to make these activities better?”, and “What are your favorite ways to spend time with your child?”. To answer the research question, will parent involvement encourage children's learning abilities, inductive open coding was used to determine reoccurring themes in the participant’s responses.