

## Findings

Previous literature has shown that parent involvement increases the chances of developmental and educational success for children through promoting positive behaviors. Children are very impressionable, and adults have the ability to impact their growth. Therefore, parent involvement in childhood plays a crucial role in building the foundation for future achievements among children. Additionally, the independent variable, educational attainment, was chosen to test whether a parent's level of educational attainment would determine the level of family involvement a child experiences.

The data in this study was collected from surveys attached with Family Fun Time Activities that were sent home with Head Start families. The original research question for this study was “Do family fun time activities affect family involvement?” The dependent variable of this study was parent involvement. The survey question used to operationalize the dependent variable was, “Did this activity encourage your family to interact with one another while completing it?” This was measured on a scale from 0 (not at all) to 10 (a great amount). After receiving the survey responses, the research question changed to “Does educational attainment affect family involvement?” The dependent variable remained as family involvement. The independent variable was the parent’s level of educational attainment. The survey question used to operationalize the independent variable was “What is the highest level of education you’ve received?” Respondents indicated the highest level of education they have received by selecting one of the following attributes: lower than high school, high school diploma or GED, certification from a trade/vocational school, some college, Associate’s degree, Bachelor’s degree, Graduate degree or more.

Table 1. T-test for involvement during the activity by educational attainment

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Education	Mean	t-statistic
Less than a college degree	7.12	-.09
A college degree or higher	7.18	

*Note.*  $p < .05^*$ ,  $p < .01^{**}$ ,  $p < .001^{***}$

The dependent variable is family involvement, which was measured on a 0 (not at all) to 10 (a great amount) scale. The independent variable is the parent's level of educational attainment. The original categories for the independent variable were the following: "some high school," "high school diploma or GED," "certification from a trade/vocational school," "some college," "Associate's degree," "Bachelor's degree," or "Graduate degree or more". However, these variables were recoded into two separate groups and are now labeled as "Less than a college degree" and "A college degree or higher". The mean score for levels of educational attainment less than a college degree is 7.12. The mean score for levels of educational attainment that is a college degree or higher is 7.18. When we generalize this to a population there is no difference between the means.

Table 2. Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) of family involvement by educational attainment

Educational Attainment	Mean Involvement	F-value
High school or less	6.7	0.4
Trade school or some college	7.3	
College or more	6.8	

*Note:*  $p < .05^*$ ,  $p < .01^{**}$ ,  $p < .001^{***}$

The dependent variable for this ANOVA was family involvement. This was measured on a 0 (not at all) to 10 (a great amount) scale. The independent variable for this ANOVA was educational attainment. Respondents chose either, "some high school," "high school diploma or GED," "certification from a trade/vocational school," "some college," "Associate's degree," "Bachelor's degree," or "Graduate degree or more". However, these variables were recoded into three separate groups and are now labeled as "High school degree or less," "Trade school or

some college,” and “college or more”. The mean family involvement for high school or less was 6.7 out of 10. The mean family involvement for trade school or some college was 7.3 out of 10. Lastly, the mean family involvement was 6.8 out of 10. According to the ANOVA results ( $F=0.4$ ), there is no significant difference between these means. Therefore, educational attainment does not influence family involvement.

Table 3. Chi-squared of parent involvement by educational attainment

Education	Low Involvement	High Involvement	Total
Less than a college degree	25	21	46
A college degree or higher	9	8	17
Chi-square			0.009

*Note:*  $p < .05^*$ ,  $p < .01^{**}$ ,  $p < .001^{***}$

The dependent variable for this Chi-square was family involvement, which was measured on a 0 (not at all) to 10 (a great amount) scale. The dependent variable was recoded into two categories: “Low Involvement” and “High Involvement”. “Low Involvement” ranged from 0 to 7, and “High Involvement” ranged from 8 to 10. The independent variable is the parent’s level of educational attainment. The original categories for the independent variable were the following: “some high school,” “high school diploma or GED,” “certification from a trade/vocational school,” “some college,” “Associate’s degree,” “Bachelor’s degree,” or “Graduate degree or more”. However, these variables were recoded into two separate groups and are now labeled as “Less than a college degree” and “A college degree or higher”. The results of this sample show that there was not much difference between respondents with lower education who reported low or high involvement and respondents with higher education who reported low or high involvement. According to the Chi-square ( $X^2 = 0.009$ ) results, there is no significant difference between the categories.

### Conclusion

Overall, the original goal of this study was to assess whether Family Fun Time Activities affect family involvement within low-income families by sending home Family Fun Time Activities with Head Start children. However, when the research question was altered, this study examined whether the parent's level of educational attainment affects family involvement. The results of the T-test concluded that, when generalized to a population, there was no difference between the means. Similarly, the ANOVA results ( $F=0.4$ ) indicated that there was no significant difference between the means. Lastly, the Chi-squared results ( $\chi^2 = 0.009$ ) showed that there was no significant difference between the categories. Ultimately, after running the T-test, ANOVA, and Chi-squared, the results of this sample concluded that there was no significant relationship between educational attainment and family involvement. Therefore, educational attainment does not influence family involvement.