

**From:** Mary Grider  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2009 8:18 PM  
**To:** What Works  
**Cc:** Scott Cody; Sakari Morvey  
**Subject:** FW: What really works?

Please log this and assign to Scott.

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**From:** Scott Cody  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2009 4:38 PM  
**To:** Mary Grider  
**Subject:** Fwd: What really works?

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Christine Ross" <[CRoss@mathematica-mpr.com](mailto:CRoss@mathematica-mpr.com)>  
**Date:** February 10, 2009 10:03:40 AM EST  
**To:** "Scott Cody" <[SCody@Mathematica-Mpr.com](mailto:SCody@Mathematica-Mpr.com)>  
**Cc:** "Jill Constantine" <[JConstantine@mathematica-mpr.com](mailto:JConstantine@mathematica-mpr.com)>  
**Subject:** **FW: What really works?**

Scott,

See below – I believe you are supposed to handle as part of the audit team?

Please let me know about your communications with Larry. I run into these people at conferences and need to know how these issues are getting resolved. The same goes for our communications around the Abt protest.

Thanks,

Chris

Christine Ross

Senior Economist  
Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.  
600 Alexander Park

Princeton, NJ 08540  
Phone: (609) 750-3184

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**From:** Larry Schweinhart [<mailto:LARRYS@highscope.org>]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 09, 2009 4:55 PM  
**To:** Christine Ross  
**Subject:** What really works?

Christine,

A search of the website for What Works Clearinghouse: Early Childhood Education reveals three High/Scope entries:

Growing Readers Early Literacy Curriculum (High/Scope)	No Studies Identified
High/Scope Curriculum	No Studies Meeting Eligibility Screens
High/Scope Preschool Key Experiences Series, Booklets and Videos	No Studies Identified

While there's no problem with the entries in the first row, I suggest you delete the entries in the third row, because the "intervention" is a set of publications that do not constitute an intervention. But I'd especially like to discuss with you the entries in the second row, which I first questioned with your colleague Ellen Kisker a few years ago.

The HighScope Perry Preschool Study meets all but one of the criteria in the WWC review protocol on the website. It is one of the very few randomized controlled trials in early childhood education. It was most recently comprehensively published in 2005 (Schweinhart, Montie, Xiang, Barnett, Belfield, & Nores, HighScope Press). It focuses, among other things, on the effect of a center-based early childhood education intervention on children's school

readiness outcomes, specifically cognition, early reading/writing, and math outcomes at school entry.

The only criterion it does not meet is that the intervention was implemented before 1985. Protocol footnote 2 states, “If sufficient time and resources remain after we have completed our review of research on interventions implemented post 1985, the ECE team will consider reviewing older research on curricula that are still in widespread use,” a condition that clearly includes HighScope. It’s also clear that the HighScope Perry Preschool Study is more widely used than ever, with 12,000 hits on a Google search. Assuming the review of post-1985 interventions is now complete, would you possibly have time and resources to review the HighScope Perry Preschool Study?

Larry Schweinhart

President

HighScope Educational Research Foundation

**From:** Scott Cody  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 06, 2009 2:27 PM  
**To:** LARRYS@highscope.org  
**Subject:** FW: What really works?

Mr. Schweinhart,

Christine Ross forwarded me your February 10 message regarding the What Works Clearinghouse's (WWC's) review of High/Scope Educational products. As the WWC's Deputy Director in charge of ensuring quality and consistency, I have reviewed your concerns.

Regarding the WWC's statement that there are no studies of the "High/Scope Preschool Key Experiences Series, Booklets and Videos," you suggest that these materials do not constitute an intervention. Upon further examination, the WWC concluded that your suggestion is appropriate and the WWC will delete reference to these materials from the table of early childhood interventions.

You requested that the WWC expand the scope of the Early Childhood Education topic area to include the High/Scope Perry Preschool study. Cut-off dates established by the WWC for its reviews ensure that the research it reviews is reasonably current. Educators are the primary audience for the WWC and research on interventions from before 1985 has less relevance to them. Principal investigators have discretion to include research published before the cutoff date, with the intent of allowing them to include research that may have been published around the cutoff date and which may be related to other studies being reviewed. Going back almost 20 years before the cutoff is not what was intended. Should this policy change, the WWC will review the Perry Preschool Study along with related studies that pertain to the early childhood topic.

Sincerely,  
Scott Cody  
Deputy Director  
What Works Clearinghouse

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**From:** Larry Schweinhart [mailto:LARRYS@highscope.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 09, 2009 4:55 PM  
**To:** Christine Ross  
**Subject:** What really works?

Christine,

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Growing Readers Early Literacy Curriculum (High/Scope)      No Studies Identified

High/Scope Curriculum

No Studies Meeting  
Eligibility Screens

High/Scope Preschool Key

Experiences Series, Booklets and Videos  
No Studies Identified

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Larry Schweinhart

President

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