



GettingReady

Strategies to Support Parent Engagement during Home Visits

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GettingReady

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Today's Session

- Describe the Getting Ready Approach
- Share evidence of effectiveness
- Describe strategies used by early childhood professionals (ECPs) during interactions with families, and parents' engagement during visits
- Discuss implications



What is Getting Ready?

- The Getting Ready intervention is an integrated, multi-systemic, ecologically-based intervention that promotes school readiness through enhancing *parent engagement* for children from birth to age five.
- Professionals are trained to use *triadic* and *collaborative* strategies in their work with families.



What is Getting Ready?

- In *Getting Ready*, professionals and parents build strong partnerships through:
 - *mutual respect;*
 - *on-going cooperation;*
 - *joint and specific roles and responsibilities for teacher and parent.*
- The approach supports engaged parent-child relationships, which have been shown to enhance children's developmental trajectory in the early years.
- The approach is infused into all aspects of the existing program and is NOT another 'parent education' or 'parent involvement' component.

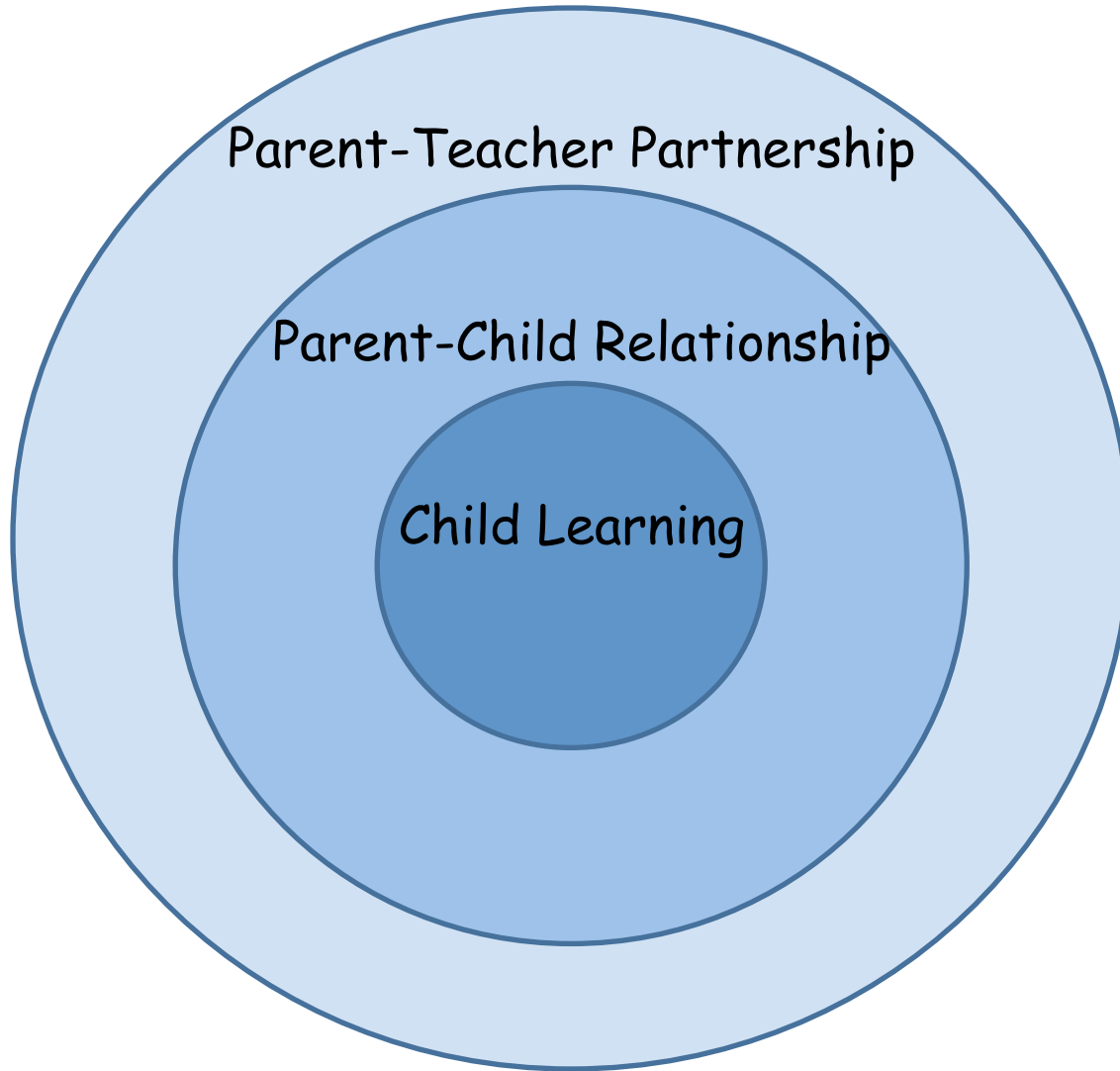
Desired Outcomes of Getting Ready

1. Support of children's school readiness
2. Development of supportive parent-child relationships
3. Promotion of positive, constructive parent-teacher partnerships

...the one factor best differentiating the more successful intervention efforts was the extent to which the interventions were aimed at supporting and enhancing the roles of families as competent and confident caregivers of their young children.

(Guralnick, 1989)





Parent-Teacher Partnership

Parent-Child Relationship

Child Learning

What are the child outcomes?

Preschool children in treatment group improved:

- ***social-emotional competencies***, including enhanced levels of attachment behavior with adults; increases in self-initiative; and reductions in anxiety / withdrawal behaviors.
- ***self-regulation***, including declines in overactive behaviors. Importantly, positive affect and verbalizations improved among children whose mothers reported elevated levels of depression.
- ***language and early literacy skills***, including children's use of language, early reading and writing skills.

What are the parent outcomes?

Parents in the treatment group:

- interacted with their children using a ***greater degree of warmth and sensitivity***.
- demonstrated more skills to ***support their children's autonomy***.
- provided more appropriate ***supports for their children's learning***.
- offered their children more ***appropriate guidance and directives***.



Focus of Current Study

What Getting Ready strategies are being used in home visits?

How much are parents engaged in home visits?



The Getting Ready Strategies

- Establish/re-establish relationship with parent

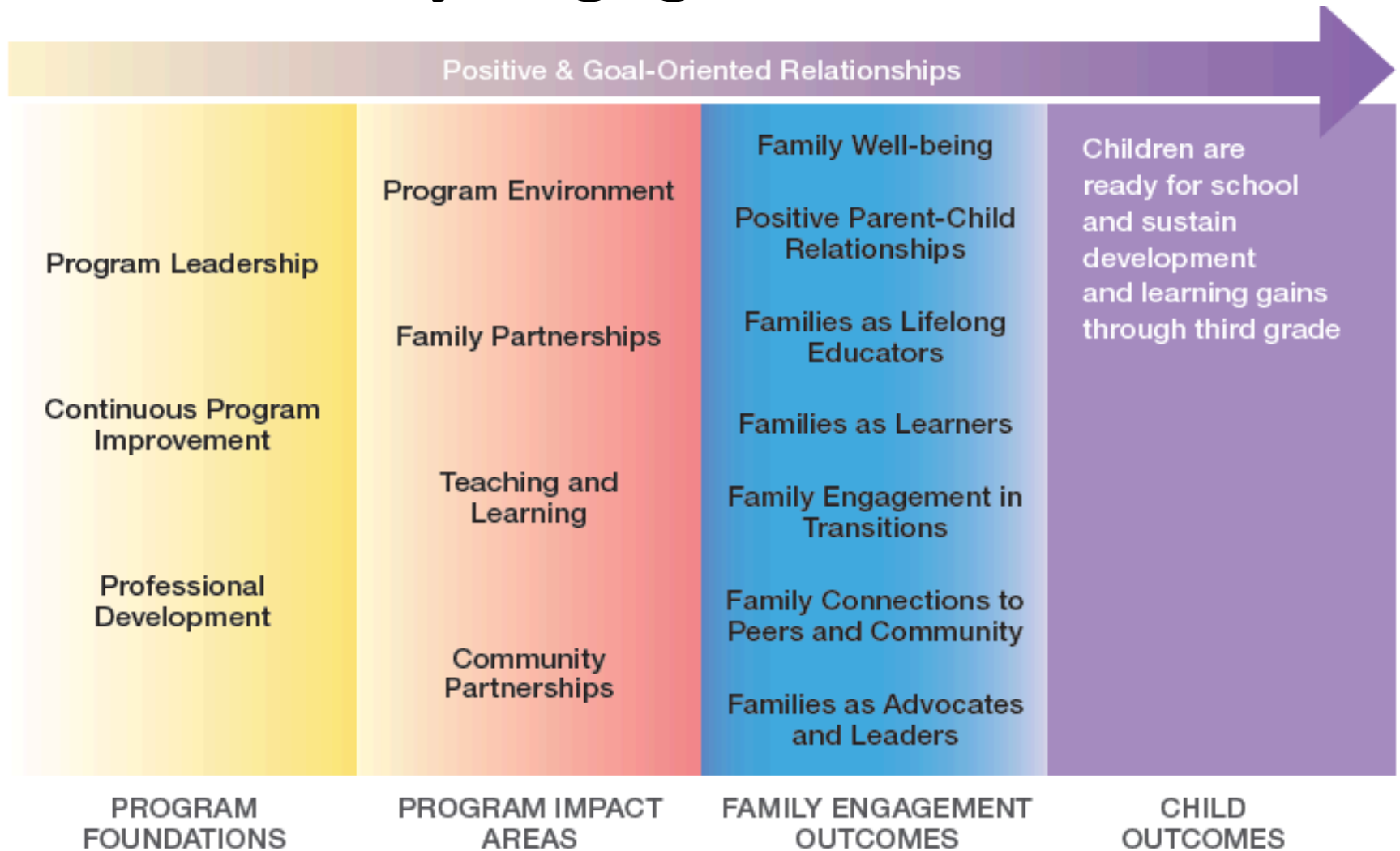
INDIRECT – Encouraging parent engagement

- Focus parent attention on child strengths
- Affirm parent competence
- Provide developmental information
- Establish dyadic context

DIRECT – Inviting parent engagement

- Ask parent to share observations and ideas
- Help parent discuss and prioritize concerns/needs
- Brainstorm
- Make suggestions/ provide directives
- Promote practice and interaction through modeling
- Help plan for future goals, directions

Head Start Parent, Family and Community Engagement Framework



Sample and Methods

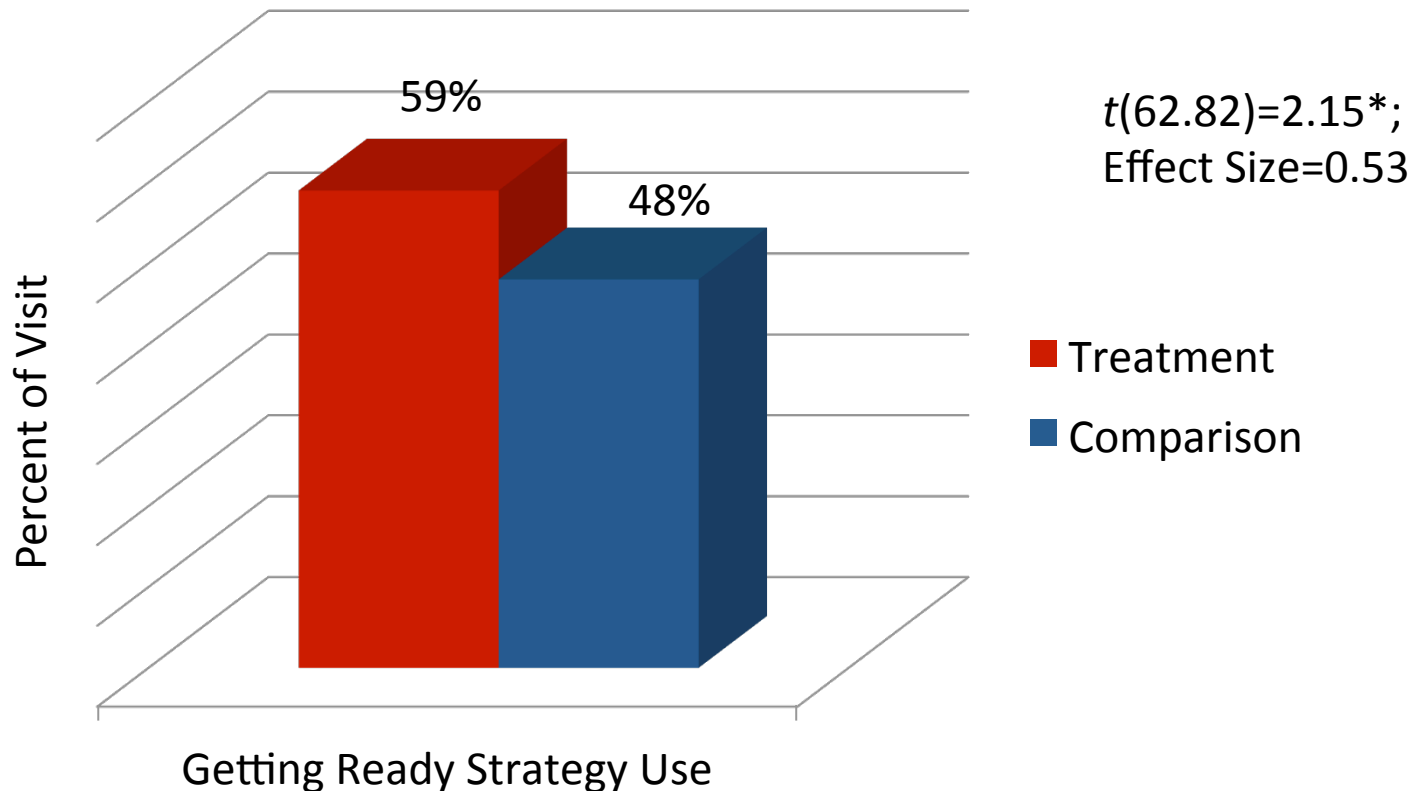
- 18 Early Head Start and 14 Head Start early childhood professionals (ECP) participated in the Getting Ready treatment group.
 - EHS: weekly home visits plus socializations
 - HS: five home visits per academic year plus socializations
- All ECPs participated in initial training and ongoing coaching.
- Select home visits were video-recorded; families had to have been assigned to the ECP for at least four months.
- For each visit, one-minute partial interval recording procedures were used.
 - *Getting Ready* strategy use was coded if it was observed to occur at all during a one-minute interval.

What Getting Ready strategies were used in home visits?



Strategy Use - Overall

- Early childhood professionals in the treatment group utilized Getting Ready strategies more than comparison ECPs over the course of a home visit.

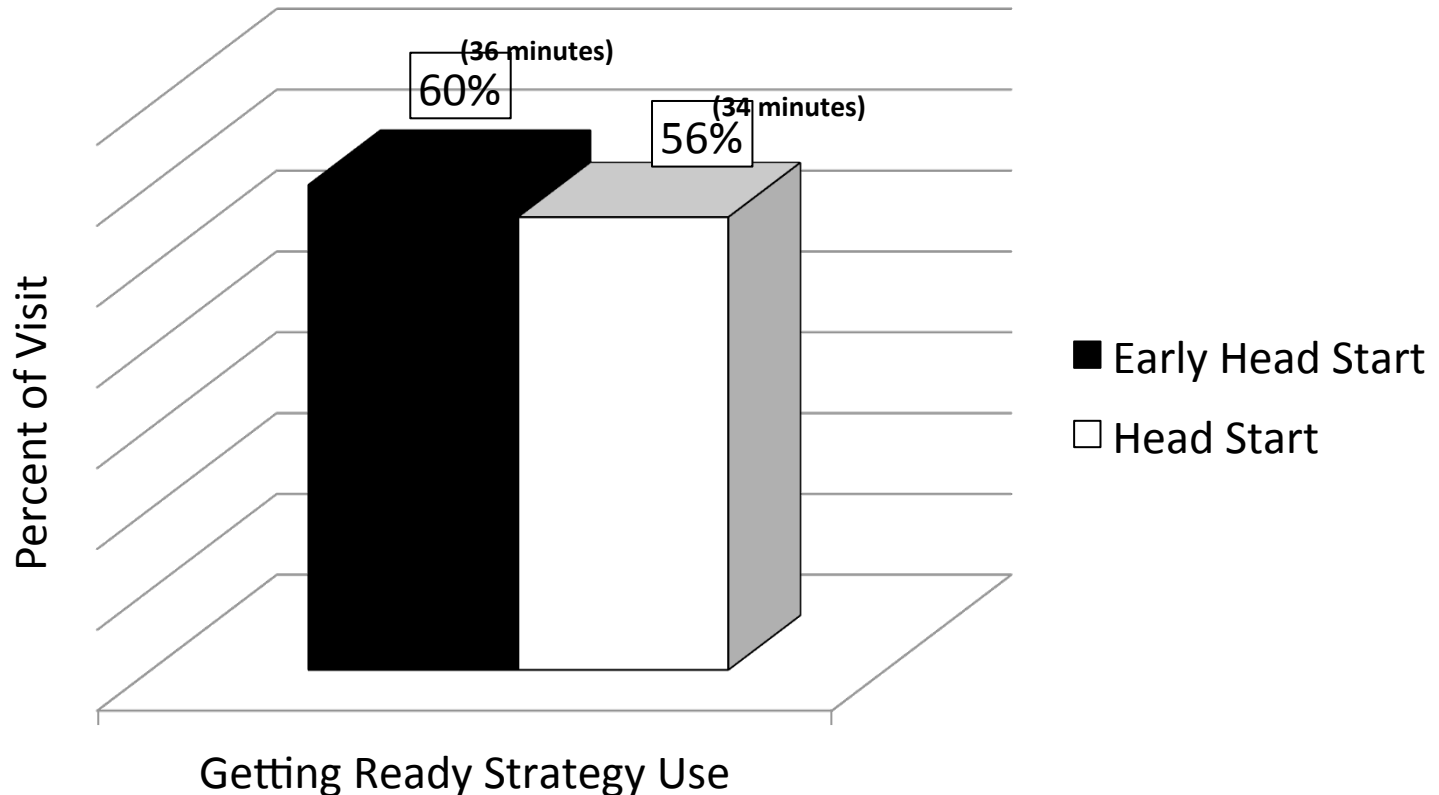


Strategy Use - Overall

- *Relative to comparison participants, treatment group participants:*
 - **offered more affirmations of parent's competence;**
($t(46.67)=3.94^{***}$; Effect Size=0.97)
 - **engaged in a higher rate of brainstorming with families** during the home visit;
($t(43.67)=2.27^*$; Effect Size=0.55)
 - demonstrated more frequent efforts to **establish interactions between parent and child.**
($t(62.95)=2.35^*$; Effect Size=0.58)

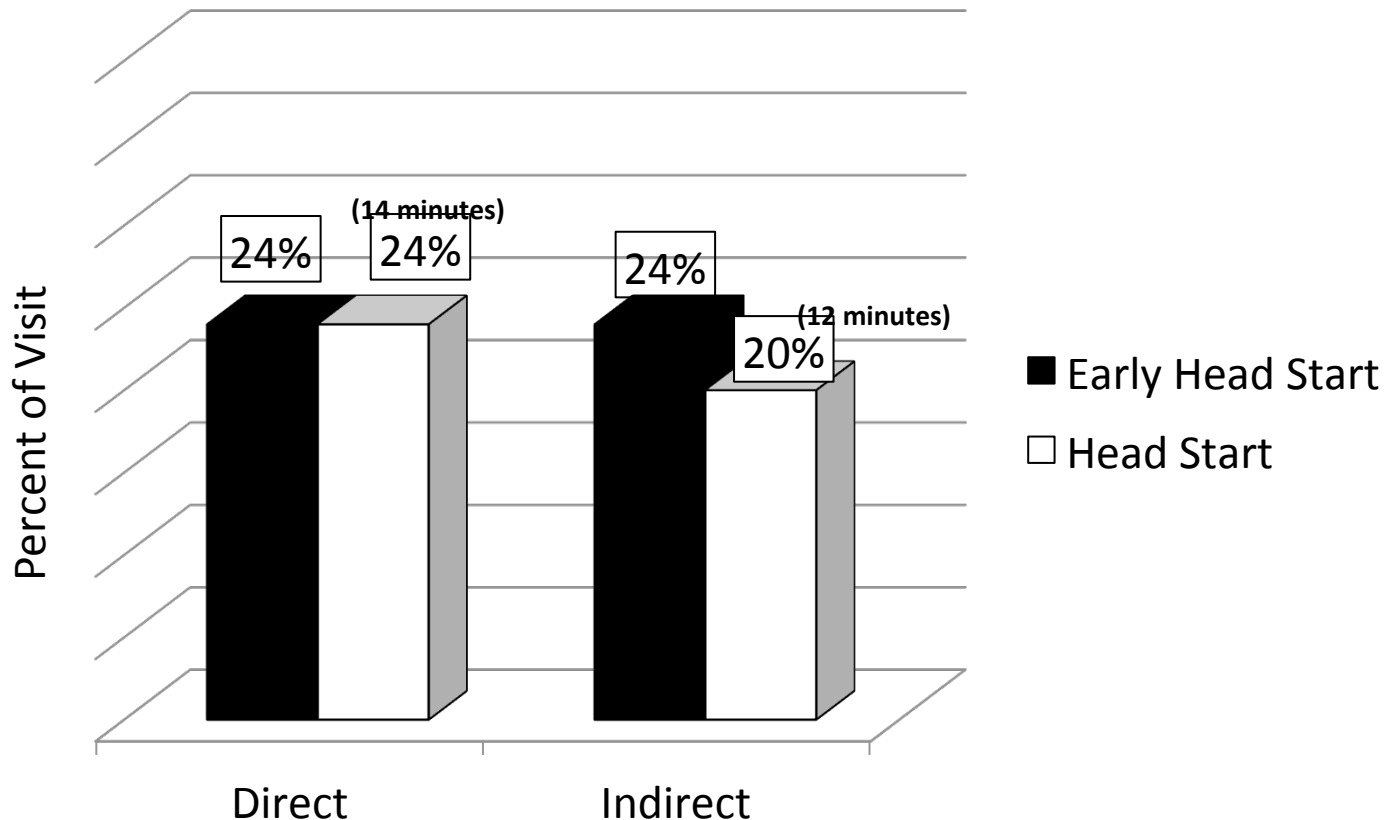
Strategy Use – within treatment

Professionals in the treatment group utilized Getting Ready strategies at a comparable rate during home visits with families.

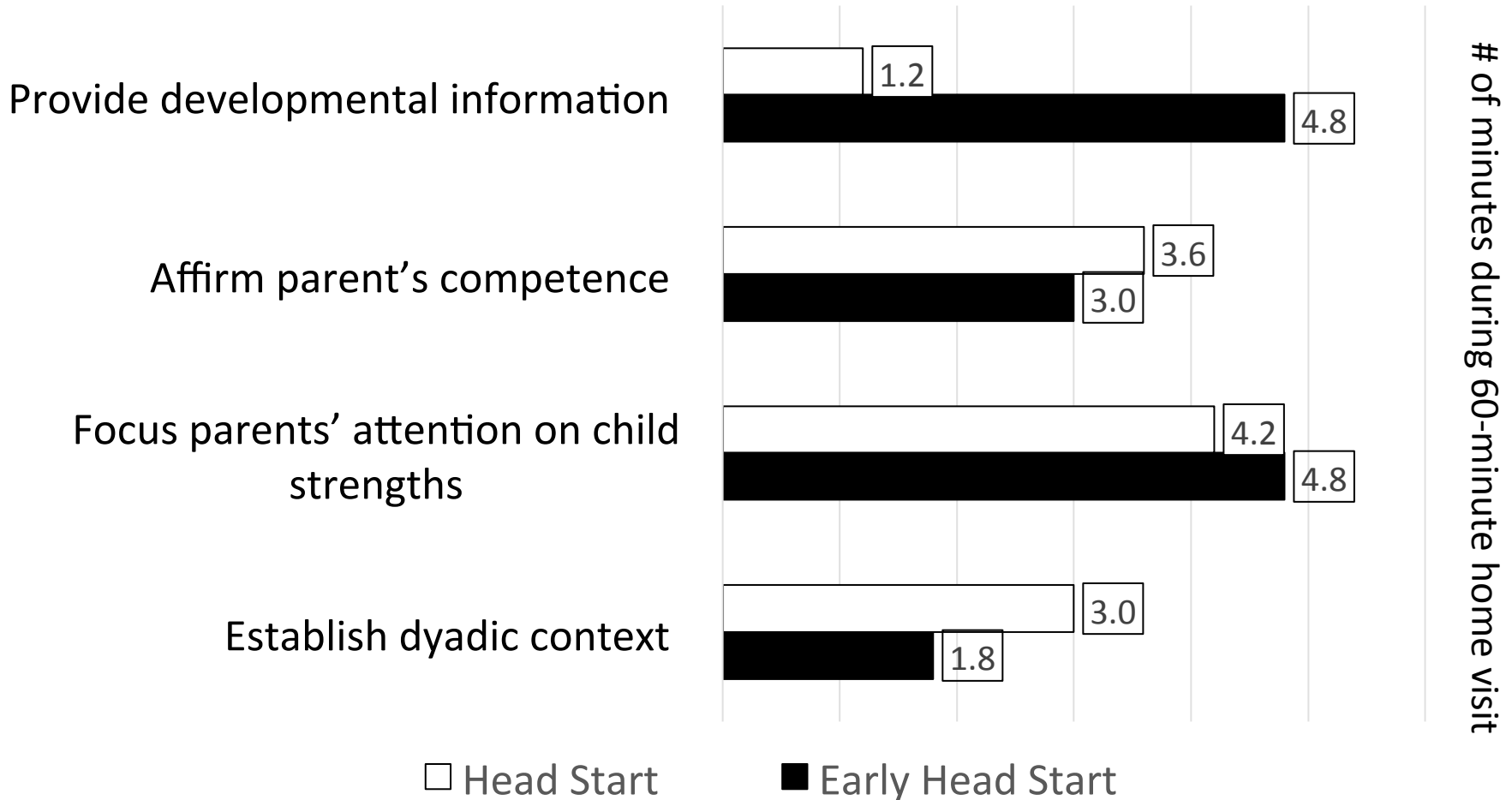


Strategy Use – within treatment

Professionals in the treatment group utilized direct and indirect strategies. EHS professionals used more indirect strategies than HS.



Indirect Strategy Use

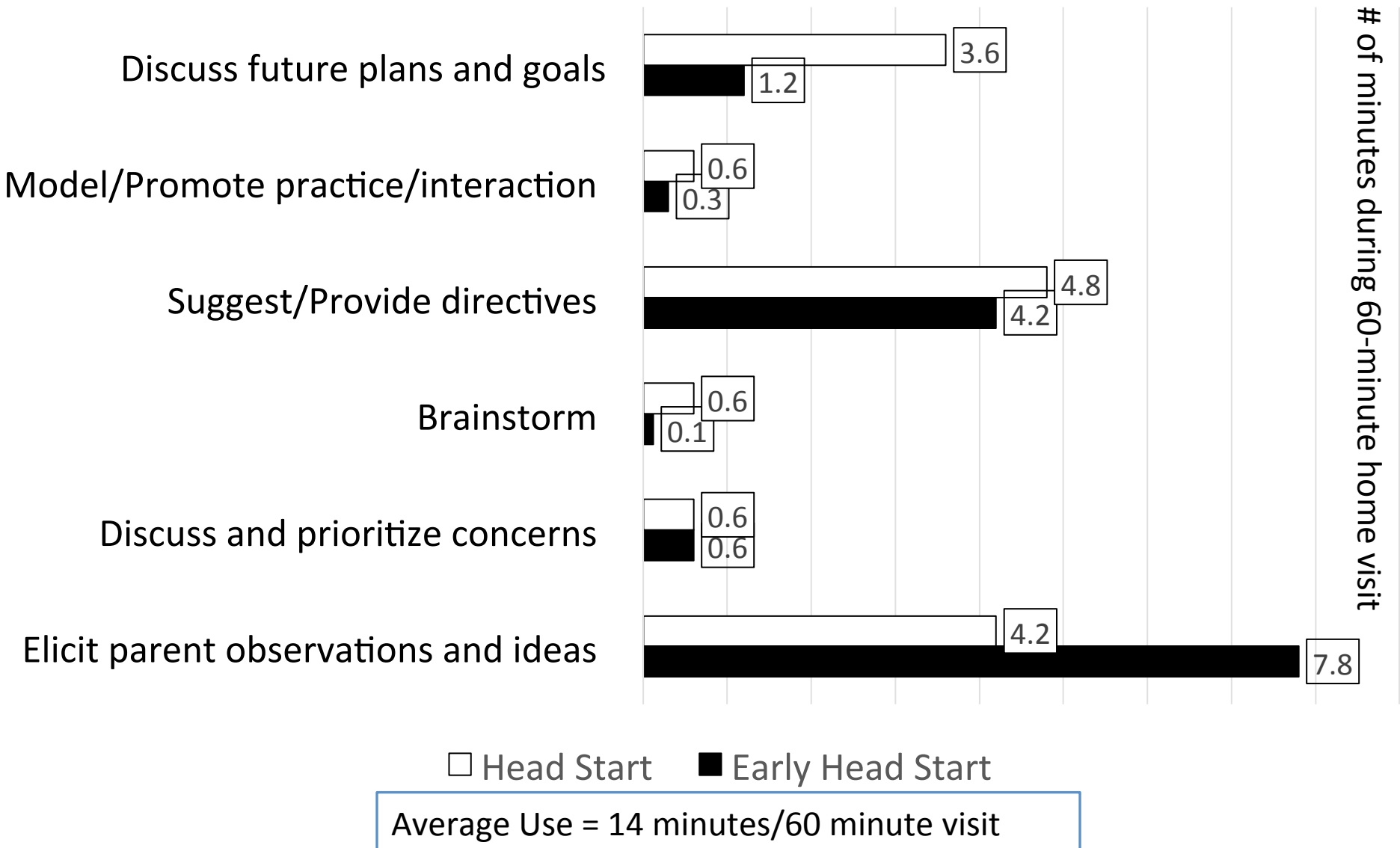


Average Use:

HS = 12 minutes/60 minute visit

EHS = 14 minutes/60 minute visit

Direct Strategy Use



Type of Strategies Used

Indirect

- Establish dyadic contexts
- Affirm parent competence
- Provide developmental information
- Focus parent's attention on child's abilities

Direct

- Discuss & prioritize concerns
- Elicit parent observations
- Brainstorm ideas
- Suggest
- Model & promote practice
- Discuss/Plan future goals

NOTE: Early Head Start

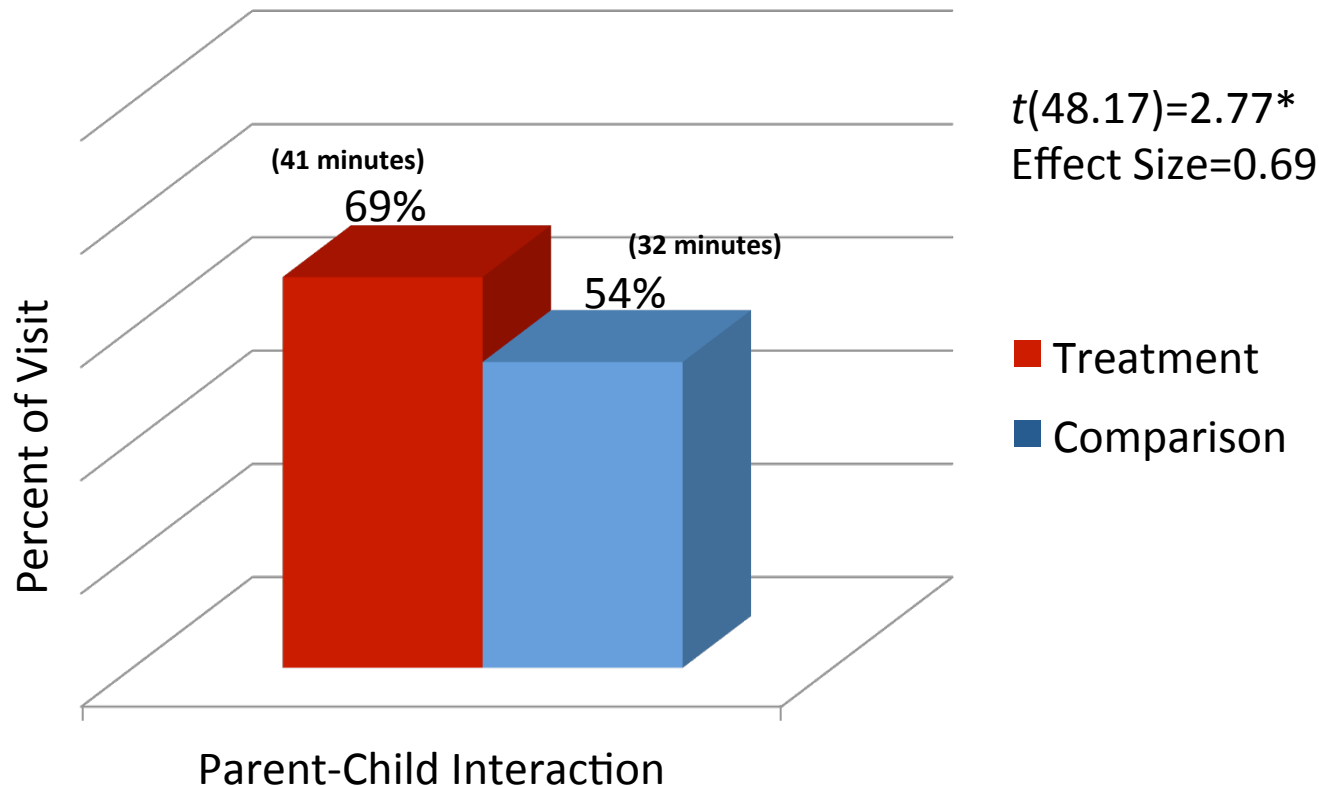
Head Start

How much are parents engaged in home visits?



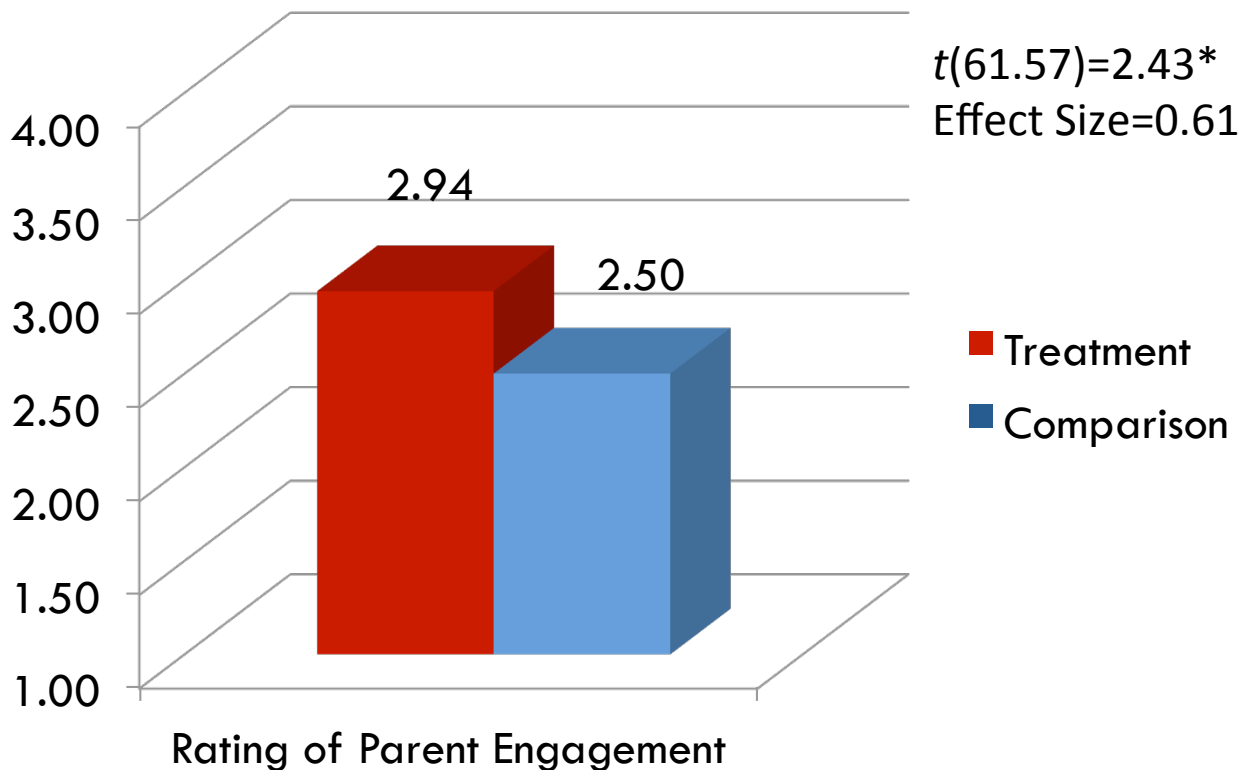
Parent Engagement

- Parents and children in the treatment group were observed to be interacting with each other more than in the comparison group.

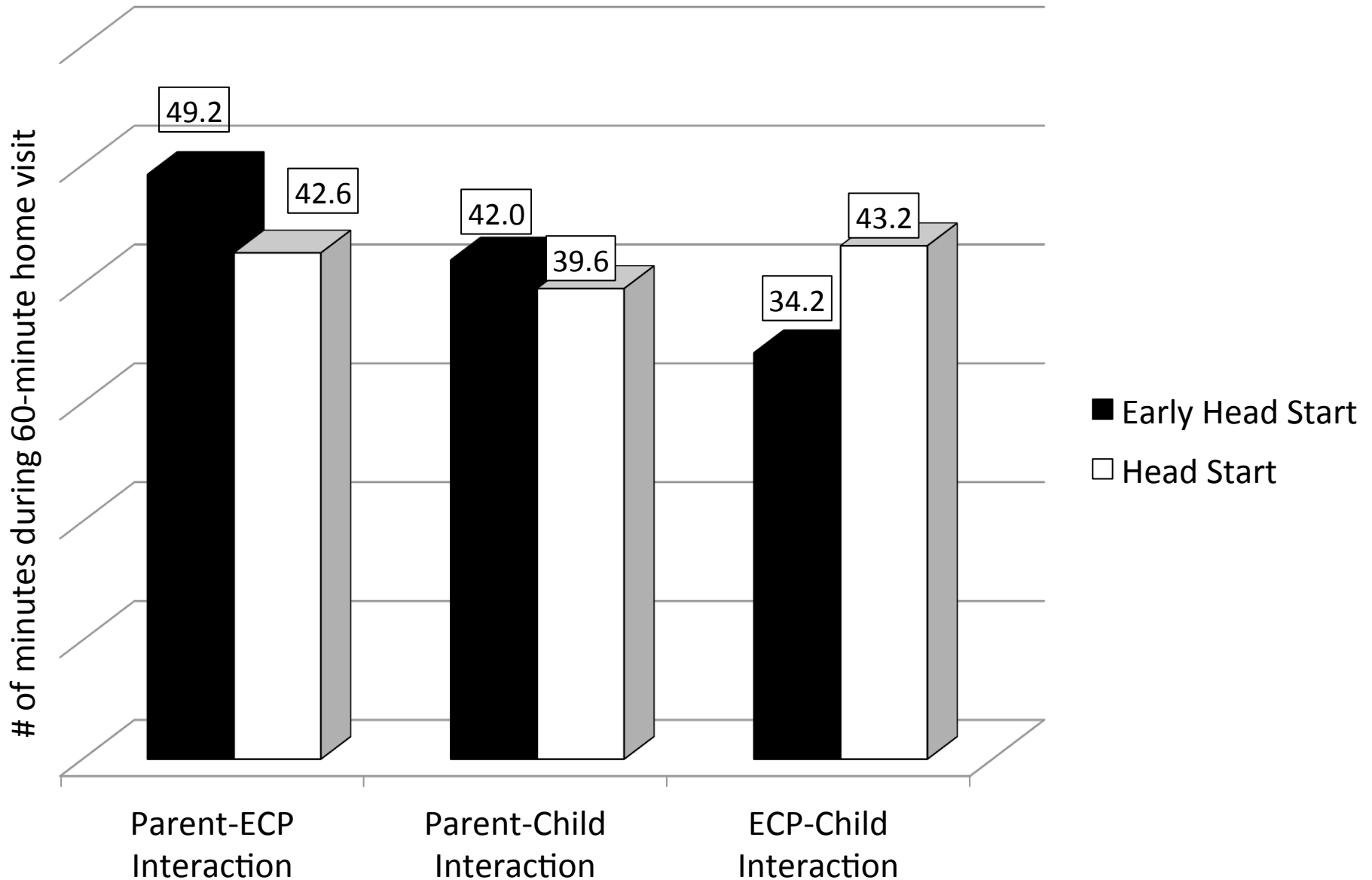


Parent Engagement

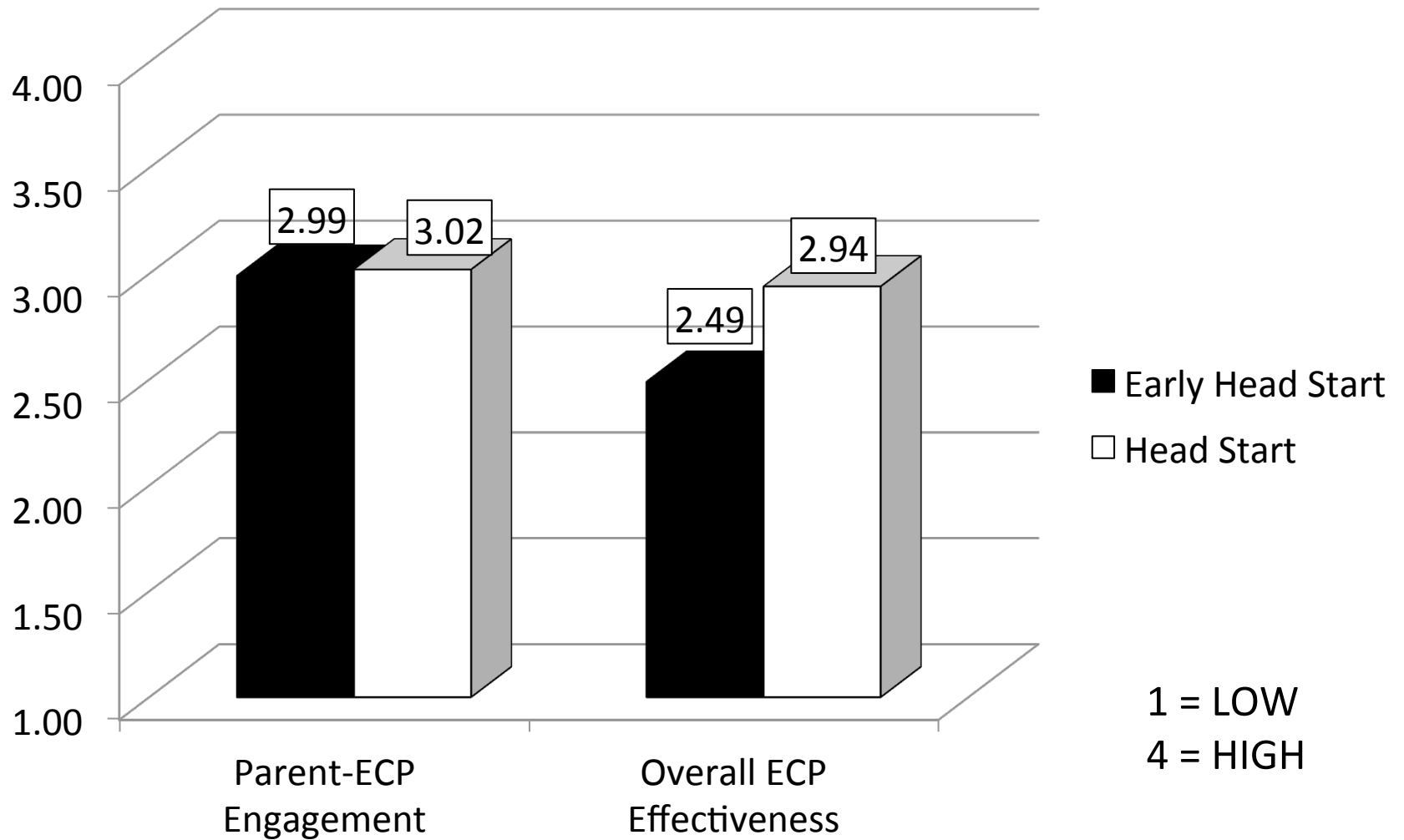
- Ratings of parent's engagement with their children were also higher in the treatment group.



Interactions in EHS and HS



Levels of Engagement



What information resulted from this investigation?

- Early childhood professionals in the treatment group utilized Getting Ready strategies more than comparison ECPs over the course of a home visit.
- Both EHS and HS professionals used Getting Ready Strategies. Frequency of specific strategies varied across groups.
- EHS professionals used more indirect strategies.

What information resulted from this investigation?

- Higher frequency of parent-child interaction in the treatment group.
- Parent's level of engagement was higher in the treatment group.
- More parent-child interaction and parent-ECP interaction in EHS versus HS.
- More ECP-child interaction in HS versus EHS.

What are key take-away points?

- The Getting Ready intervention positively influences what the ECPs are doing with parents during their visits, reflecting that a combination of strategies are used to enhance parent-ECP and parent-child relationships.
- Getting Ready strategies are flexible for use in Early Head Start and Head Start.

How can this information advance early childhood practice?

- Getting Ready strategies could be the focus of professional development and training efforts for early childhood professionals who conduct home visits.
 - ...and reflect the Head Start Parent, Family and Community Engagement (PFCE) Framework.
- Helps unpack what is taking place during home visits.
- Helps define quality parent-ECP engagement that can promote parent-child interactions.

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