

# Educare

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QuickTime™ and a  
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

# Educare

- What is Educare?
- What are the goals of Educare?
- How are the Educare Centers funded?
- Where are Educare Centers located?
- What are program effectiveness results to date?
- What are the next steps for Educare?

# Educare: What is it?

## Definition:

- State-of-the-art early childhood centers working together in a growing network to advance quality in their own states and across the country
- Each Educare is a partnership, a place, a program, and a platform for policy change

# Educare Program: What is it?

- Each Educare serves 150-200 young children and their families
  - Children are birth to 5 years of age; with emphasis on infants and toddlers
  - Low-income, at-risk population; Head Start eligible families

# Educare Program: What is it?

- Why this target population?
  - Achievement gap is evident at kindergarten entry and has significant social and economic consequences
  - Educare seeks to prevent SES-linked differences in school readiness and achievement by drawing on current research in child development and early childhood education
    - The importance of “starting early”
    - The importance of high quality programs, especially for at-risk populations

# Educare Program: What is it?

- Each Educare implements a model developed in 2000 by Chicago's Ounce of Prevention Fund
  - Mix of Head Start, preschool, and child care services
  - Full-day and full-year schedule
  - Well-prepared and well-supervised classroom staff
  - Family support services to ensure each family's comprehensive needs are addressed

# Educare Program: What is it?

Program features: Well-prepared and well-supervised classroom staff

- In each classroom:
  - BA-degreed teacher in early childhood education
  - AA-degreed assistant teacher in early childhood
  - An aide from the community
- All classrooms are supervised by teachers with Master's degrees in early childhood

# Educare Program: What is it?

Program features: In addition to the classroom team,

- Each family is paired with a family support worker and a family support supervisor who facilitate:
  - Family / parent involvement
  - Social work and family support services
  - Mental health services
  - Opportunities to participate in program governance
- Approximately 1/3 of the budget and space devoted to adults

# Educare: Program Goals

- Educare works “to take the nation’s best early childhood research from the lab to the streets”; to narrow the gap between “what we know” and “what we do” in early childhood programming and policy
- Educare seeks to combine the best of Head Start, child care, and preschool to help at-risk infants, toddlers, and preschoolers grow up eager to learn and ready for school

# Educare: Partnership

- Public schools are an important partner
  - Educare Centers are located adjacent to or very near elementary schools
    - Facilitate collaboration
    - Send message that children are learning from birth
  - Public school systems are often one of the sponsors of a community's Educare Center

# Educare: Partnership

- Other important partners
  - Educare Centers are funded by private/public partnerships
    - Private dollars build the building (anchor funder)
    - Operating budgets (approximately 2.6-3 million annually) are based on cross-organizational partnerships with multiple funding streams:
      - Head Start / Early Head Start grantees (about 50%)
      - Public school districts
      - State governments
      - Private dollars

# Educare: Place

- The Educare buildings are intended to rival corporate child care centers in design and quality (rationale: leveling the playing field)
  - Each Educare is approximately 30,000 sq. ft.
  - Building costs have ranged from approximately 4 to 9 million
  - One architectural firm, RDG, provides consultation to ensure sharing of lessons and improving quality with each new center

# Educare: Place

- Currently Educare Centers operate in 5 communities:  
Chicago, Omaha, Milwaukee, Tulsa, and Denver
- Additional Educare Centers are being built or planned: Omaha II, Tulsa II, Oklahoma City, Seattle, Miami-Dade, Yakima and others

# Educare: Platform for Policy Change

- Bounce Learning Network (BLN)
  - Key partners from all participating Educare communities gather regularly to learn from each other and leaders in the field
  - Cross-site Implementation Study designed to inform continual program improvement and broader research and policy

# Educare: BLN Cross-Site Study

- Personnel
  - National Evaluation Partner - Donna Bryant at the Frank Porter Graham Institute at the University of North Carolina
  - Local Evaluation Partner - each site hires an LEP
- Structure
  - A set of common measures linked to Educare child, family, and staff/program program goals will be administered
  - LEPs will work with sites to use results to inform program improvement; NEP will analyze “pulled” data from across all participating sites

Results to Date:

Outcomes for  
2005-06 and 2006-07  
Omaha and Chicago

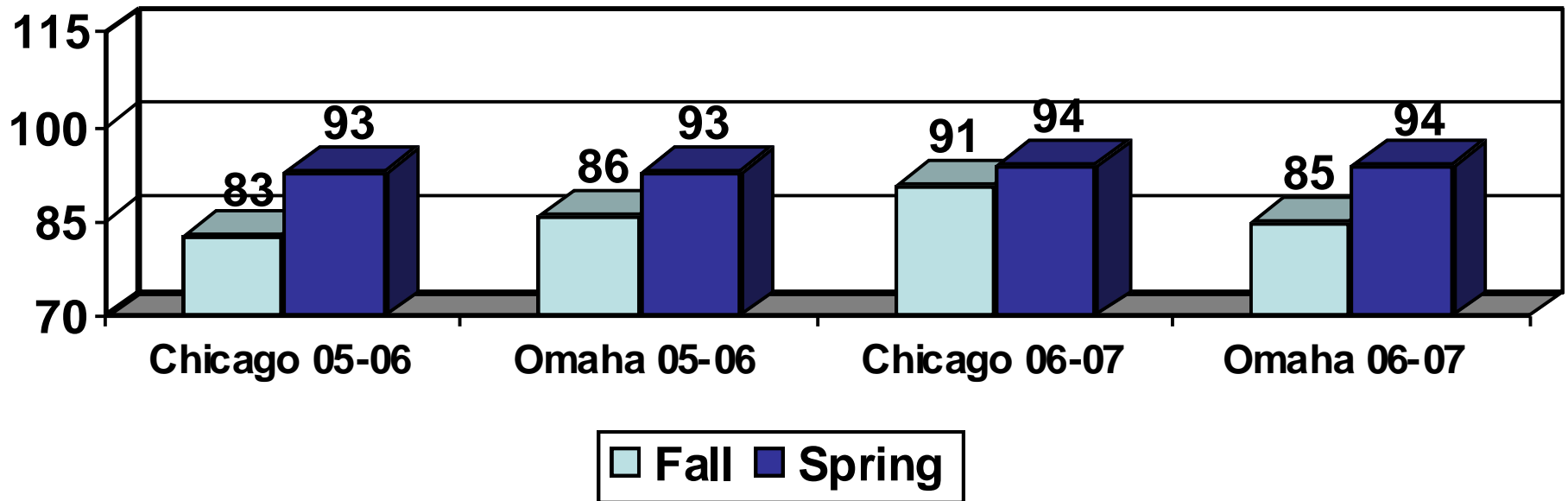
# Quality Environments

- **Early Language and Literacy Classroom Observation (ELLCO)**
- **Percentage of possible score displayed**

	Literacy Environment Checklist	Classroom Observation	Literacy Activities Rating Scale
Chicago 06	88%	89%	60%
Omaha 06	83%	91%	66%
Chicago 07	82%	80%	60%
Omaha 07	92%	95%	92%

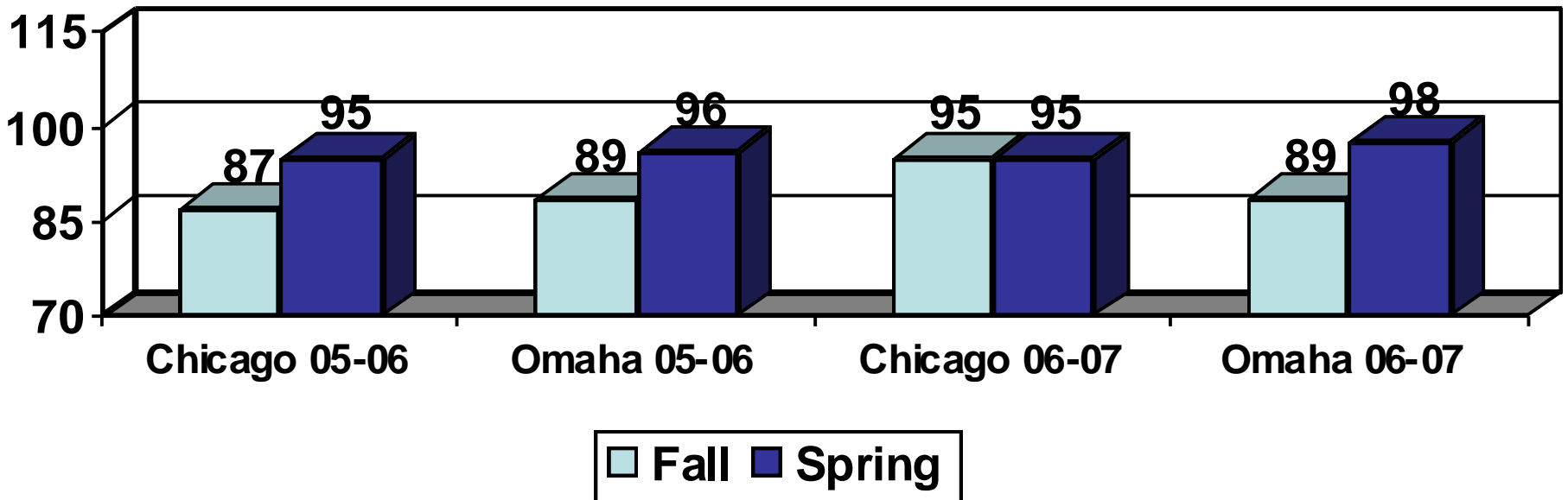
# Preschool Child Vocabulary Outcomes

- Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test-III (PPVT-III) with children 3 to 5 years of age
- Standard scores displayed



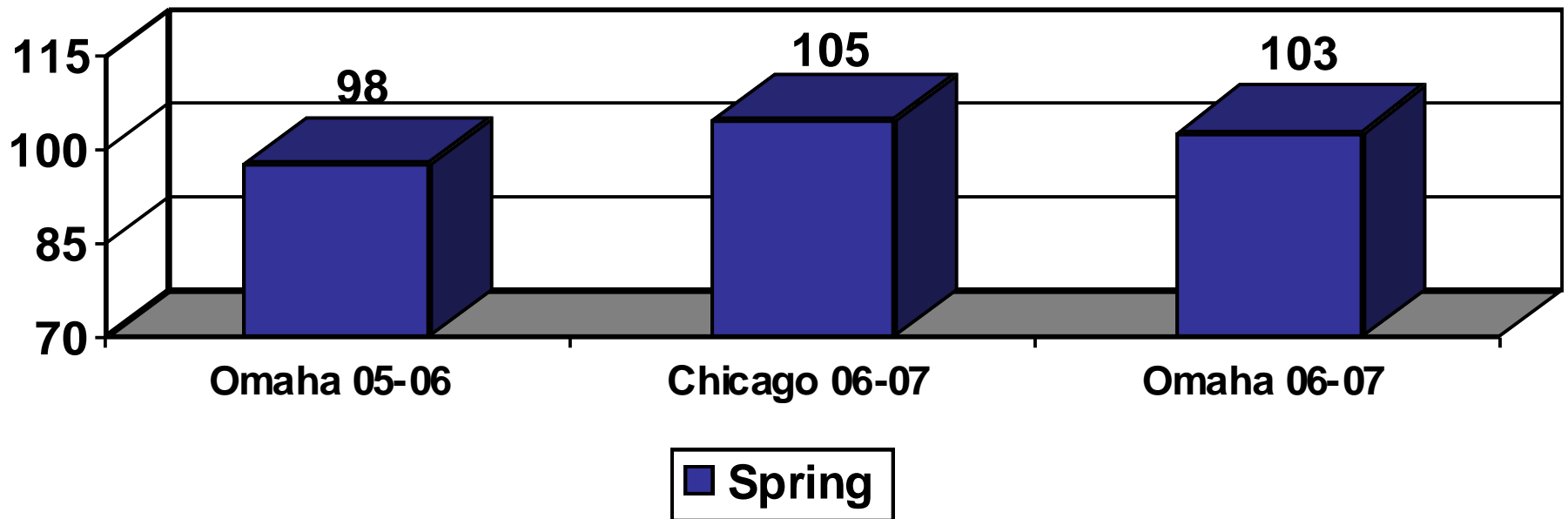
# Vocabulary Outcomes for Older Children

- **Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test-III (PPVT-III) with kindergarten-bound children**
- **Standard scores displayed**



# School Readiness Outcomes for Older Children

- **Bracken School Readiness Assessment with kindergarten-bound children**
- **Standard scores displayed**



# Phonological Development:

## Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening-Preschool (PALS)

*% of children within or above the dev. range in the spring*

Subtests	2006		2007	
	Chicago n=37	Omaha n=45	Chicago n=35	Omaha n=45
Name Writing	94%	80%	86%	85%
Upper Case Letters	81%	78%	77%	83%
Letter Sounds	69%	53%	69%	70%
Beginning Sounds	84%	89%	86%	94%
Print/Word Awareness	75%	76%	86%	64%
Rhyme Awareness	88%	84%	86%	79%
Nursery Rhyme Awareness	78%	71%	86%	74%



Participation in Educare  
makes a difference.

# Educare: Next Steps

- Establish new programs: Aim to create 12-15 Educare Centers in a 10-12 state consortium to improve quality programming and impact policy
- Cross-site data analysis: To date, only 2 Educare Centers have been in operation long enough to examine results; soon (September) will have data from 5 sites to analyze; as more sites join the network will have a large data base to examine program effectiveness and to inform programming and policy

# Educare:

- Questions and Discussion
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