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**Does Executive Function Training Transfer? Examination of the Smart Moves Program with Kindergarteners from a Title I Tulsa School**

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Important tasks of early childhood cognitive development include learning to pay attention, manage emotions, persist on tasks, and control impulses; this set of behaviors involves a set of higher-order cognitive abilities known as executive function. Executive function (EF) is a multi-faceted construct that permits the engagement of goal-directed behavior (Karr et al., 2018). EF develops rapidly in preschool years (Best et al., 2009) and is considered critical for school success (Blair & Razza, 2007). Children who exhibit low EF have more difficulty in school (Calkins & Hoswe, 2004); unfortunately, EF difficulties are more common in low income areas (Blair & Raver, 2015). EF training is a novel concept that appears to improve school readiness in preschoolers (Thorell, Lindqvist, Bergman, Bohlin, & Klingberg, 2009). The current study sought to examine whether EF skill training could improve dysregulation in identified kindergarten-age children from low socioeconomic backgrounds. We examined the efficacy of the Smart Moves (Cromer, Louie, Jean-Vertus & Kaier, unpublished manuscript) EF training program, an 8-week, game-focused curriculum designed to improve emotion regulation, and several domains of EF in children aged four to five. Fifty-three kindergarten children from a Title I school, identified as dysregulated by their teachers, participated in this study and were assigned to either the treatment or waitlist-control condition. Results from multiple regression analyses indicated no treatment effect across multiple EF indices, except for Grass/Snow, in which the experimental group showed improvement (β = -.31, p = .01). A variation of this task was included as one of the training games, which suggests that EF can be trained, however, not transferred when an 8-week, group-based intervention is applied in a school-setting. Implications for future research related to EF facilitation will be discussed.

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