

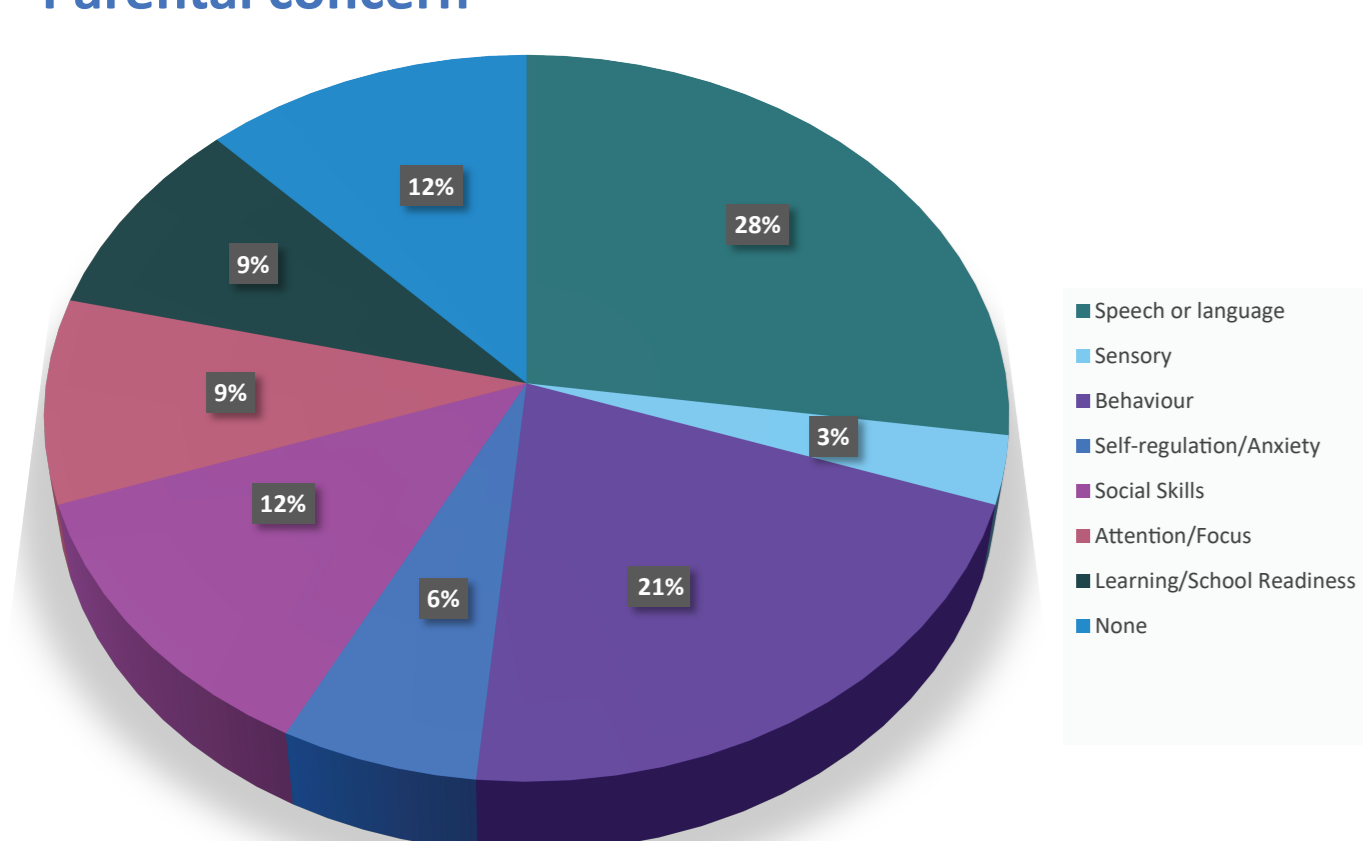
Introduction

Due to their unique challenges and needs, young children with developmental disabilities often face significant barriers to participation in early year education and social opportunities. These barriers make it difficult for parents of young children to access the professionals and programming their children need to support their development.

Aims

To bridge this gap, we piloted 'Early RISers', an innovative early years program with parent/guardian participation that targets and supports the early learning and developmental needs of diverse young children. The program brings together early years professionals from multiple disciplines to create an inclusive program where children are offered a range of experience and work towards developing a range of skills each week. The program focuses on key areas important for young children's development, including: speech and language skills, social and communication skills, gross and fine motor skills, early literacy and numeracy, and self-regulation.

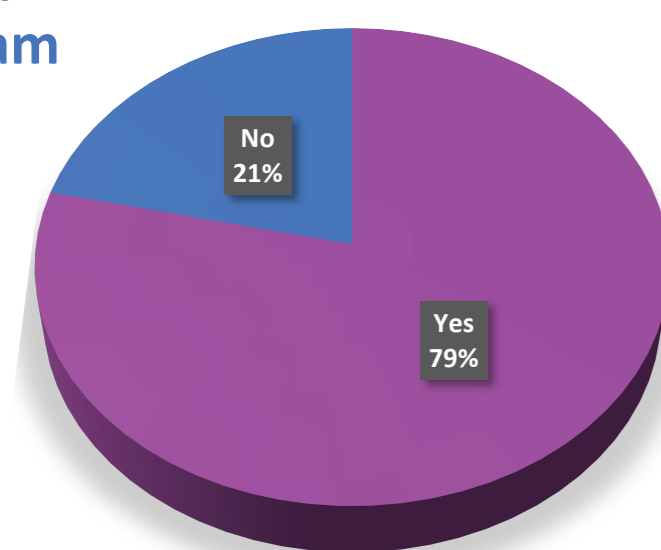
Parental concern



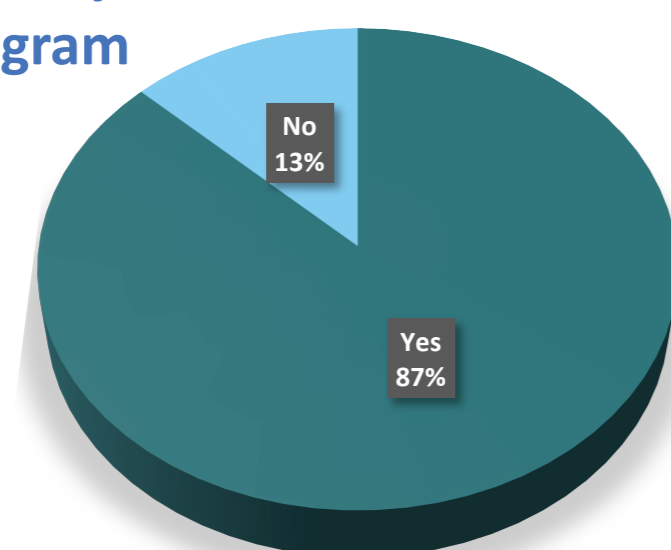
Discussion

Since Fall of 2021, the program pilot has served over 30 young children with a wide range of developmental disabilities and their families. It has offered parents opportunities to connect, consult, and be supported by the professionals working with their children in an inclusive group setting. By participating in the program, families gain a deeper understanding of their child's strengths and stretches, as well as strategies that support their participation and meaningful inclusion into group educational settings.

Were Referred to an Early Intervention Services prior to Program



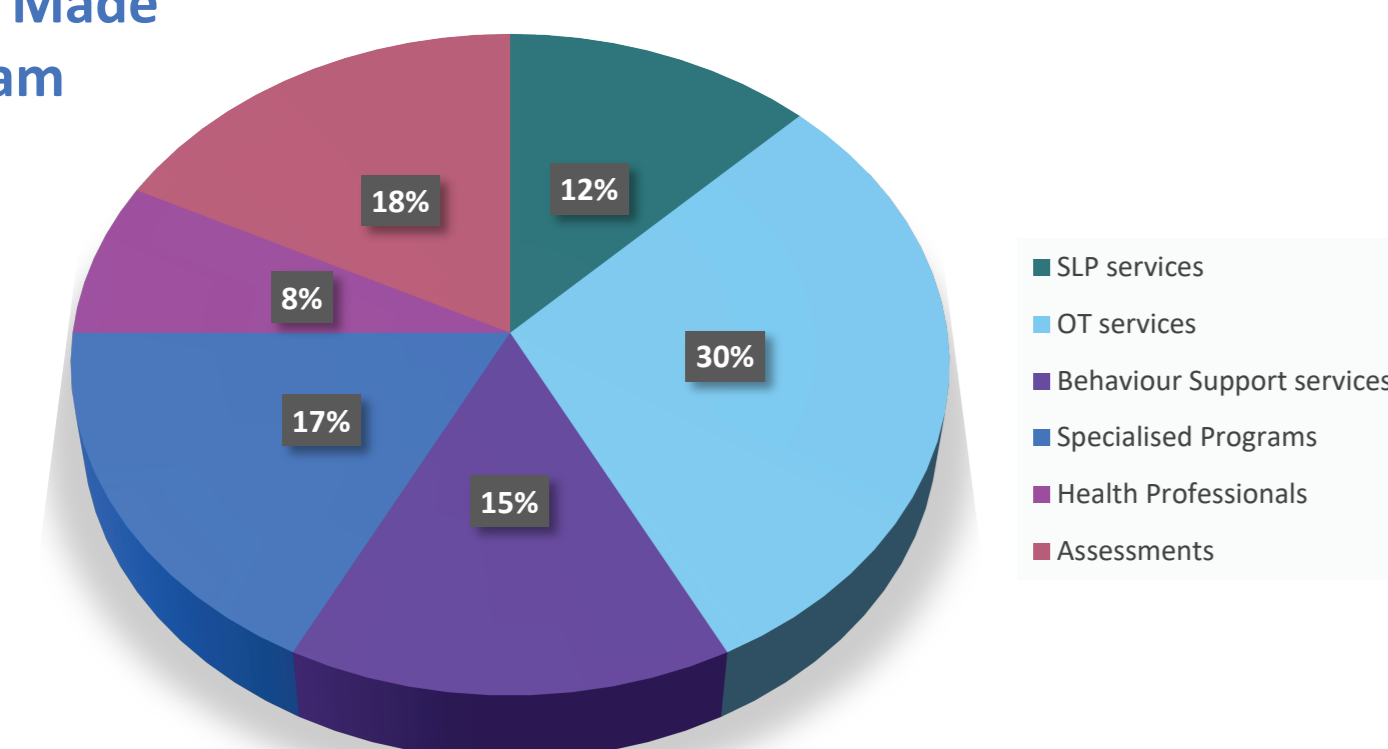
Had Been Referred to an Early Intervention Assessment By End of Program



Relevance to "DCD in the Real World"

Feedback from parents and other service providers suggests that integrating Developmental Coordination Disorder (DCD) focused screening and support into an interdisciplinary early intervention program is addressing a significant area of need for parents with young children with developmental disabilities who face barriers to

Referrals Made By Program



Interdisciplinary early intervention programming supports young children with developmental disabilities and their families, as well as providing them with targeted referrals. This helps them navigate the complexity of childhood health and education systems and be meaningfully included within them.



Program Details

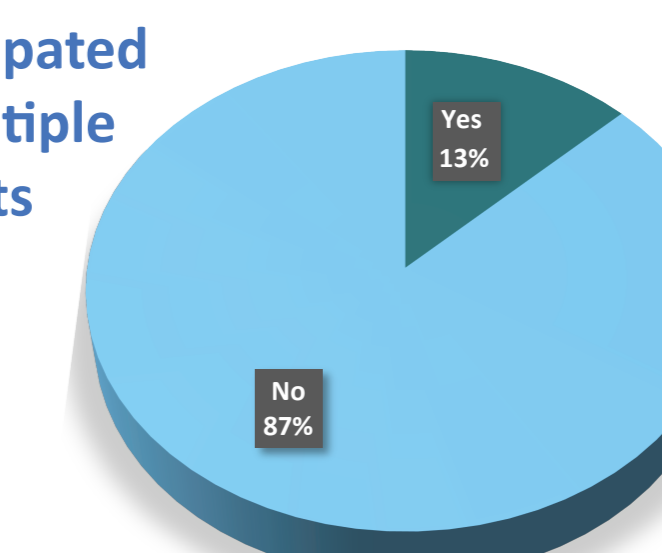
LDS Early RISers brings together professionals from multiple disciplines to offer families a unique technology-embracing program that provides assessments, skill learning, parent networking and strategies to overcome children's challenges by leveraging strengths. It's an early childhood education and intervention program with parent/guardian participation that focuses on equipping families with knowledge about their young child and their learning and development to date.

The program, designed and facilitated by early childhood experts, focuses on key areas of learning and development including early literacy, early numeracy, speech language acquisition, social and emotional learning, and physical literacy. It gives families a detailed snapshot of their child's learning and development to date, and engages young children in hands-on learning opportunities carefully scaffolded to their individual needs.

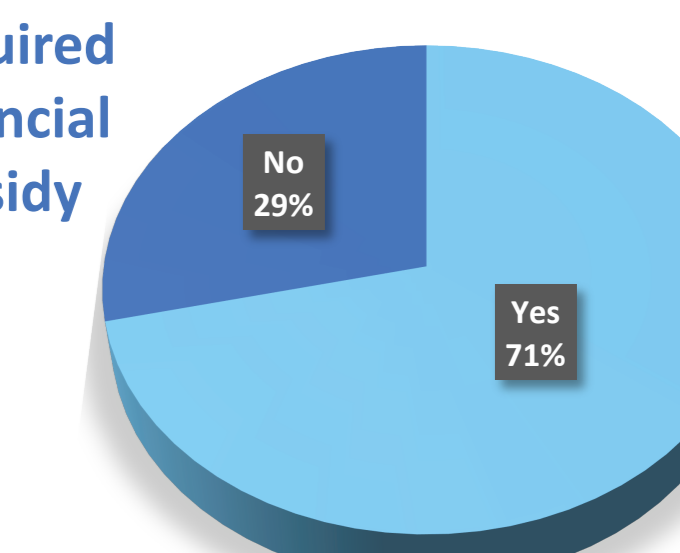
Program Length

- 10-week cohorts in Fall, Winter, and Spring.
- Program runs for 2 hours weekly on Friday or Saturday mornings.

Participated in multiple cohorts



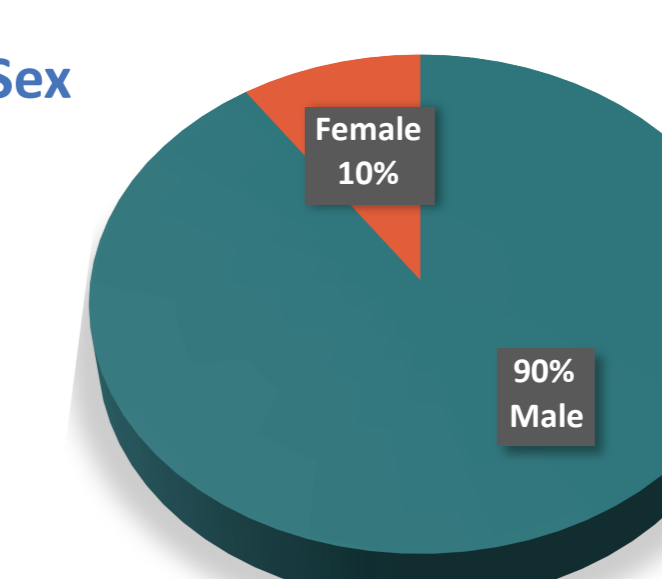
Required Financial Subsidy



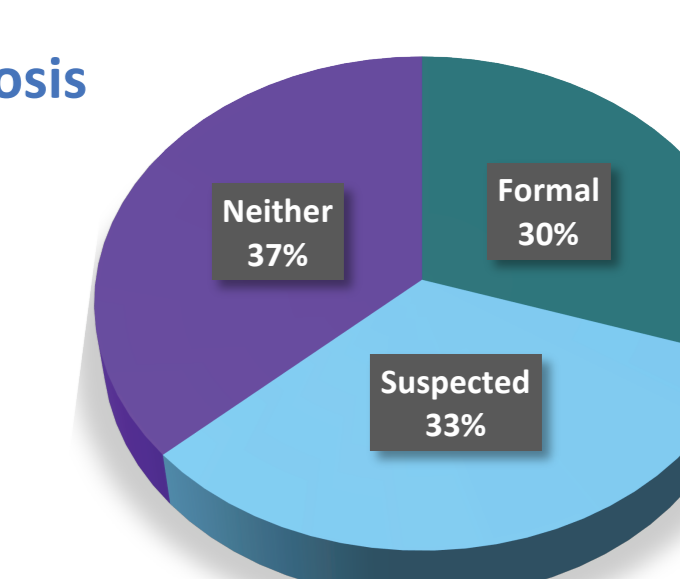
Program Participants

- 3-to-5-year-old children and their parent/guardian.
- Program is for all children, including children with developmental disabilities such as: Developmental Coordination Disorder (DCD), Developmental Language Disorders (DLD), Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and Attention Deficit Hyper Activity Disorder (ADHD).
- Up to 8 children per cohort.
- 1:2 ratio of program staff to participants.

Sex



Diagnosis



Program Location

3292 E Broadway, Vancouver (E Broadway and Rupert)

Program Staff

Speech Language Pathologist; Early Childhood Educators; Behavioural Interventionists; Consulting Occupational Therapist

Program Design and Oversight

Early Childhood Educational Researcher; Speech Language Pathologist; BC Certified Teacher

To learn more about LDS and LDS Early RISers, please visit ldsociety.ca.

