Follow Up Study of Graduates of the Nursery School Program
For the Years 1973-1976, Santa Barbara City College

Joanne Hendrick, Ph.D.
Chairperson, Department of Nursery School Education
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This study was conducted by mail during November 1976 and January, 1977. Questionnaires (see attachment) were sent to the last recorded address for all students enrolled in the curriculum classes in the Nursery School Program in the Spring of 1973, 1974, 1975 and 1976. (Data for the freshman class of 1976 was excluded.)

A total of 135 letters was sent out, and a second letter was sent to all who did not reply in November wherever a forwarding address could be determined. Twenty-four letters were returned as undeliverable and could not be traced further. Ultimately, eighty-two people replied. Therefore the final sample represents a return of approximately 60% of those enrolled in curriculum courses during the spring semesters of the past four years.
Summary of the Survey Results

Of the 82 people replying, 57 have been employed as nursery school directors, teachers, or aides during this four year period.

Their entry level positions were as follows:

3 Directors  
32 Teachers  
20 Aides  
2 Substitute Teachers

At the present time 48 individuals are teaching at the nursery school level.

Their current positions are:

9 Directors  
25 Teachers  
11 Aides  
2 Substitute Teachers  
1 Volunteer Teacher

Facts about those people who are not directly employed in teaching young children:

13 are attending four year colleges or have completed their education, including 2 with masters degrees*  
7 are still attending Santa Barbara Community College or have transferred to other community colleges*  
9 are in child related professions, including parent education, pediatric nursing, bilingual programs at the elementary level, or as elementary school aides  
12 are caring for their families at home (many of the students have babies and young children of their own at this point of their lives)  
1 is caring for a child with a special disability at home  
5 are not teaching for financial reasons (pay scale too low)  
3 are involved in other fields

*Note that several of these people are teaching as well as attending college.
Analysis of the Data

An analysis of the data reveals that approximately 60% of the people enrolled in the curriculum courses of the Nursery School Program during the past four years are presently involved in teaching preschool children. If individuals working in child related professions are included, the survey indicates that, out of 82 people replying, 57 people, or approximately 70% of the respondees are currently benefitting the community by serving its young children, and when the women caring for their infants and children at home are added to the sample, the number of people rises to 69, 84% of the sample.

For those working in the field of nursery school education per se, a steady upward professional mobility occurs in a relatively brief period of time. This should be coupled with the data that indicates that many students continue on to more academically advanced education which further increases the quality of their job opportunities.

An examination of the data also reveals that some individuals are unable to remain in the field because of "financial reasons". This difficulty, namely the low pay scale for people in nursery school education, remains a continuing problem to the profession, particularly in the private sector.

If those who listed themselves as involved in other fields and those who said they were unable to find work are added to this portion of the sample, the total number of people who are not participating in the field amounts to 11, or 13% of the respondees.

A final trend worth noting is the tendency of people in the program to continue on with more education—almost always in order to obtain a teaching credential. At the present time, 20 people (almost a quarter of the sample) are involved in continuing their education, either at a community college or a four year institution. Two have obtained masters degrees. It is likely that this trend will become more accentuated as a result of the recently finalized transfer agreement with the Child Development Department of the California Polytechnic Institute at San Luis Obispo.

Conclusion

An analysis of the Follow Up Study reveals that the Nursery School Program appears to be meeting the needs of two kinds of students in the college community with a reasonable degree of success.

It provides vocational training coupled with high employment potential for those wishing to work as nursery school teachers immediately following graduation from our institution, and it also provides an academic stepping stone to higher education for those wishing to obtain a teaching credential.