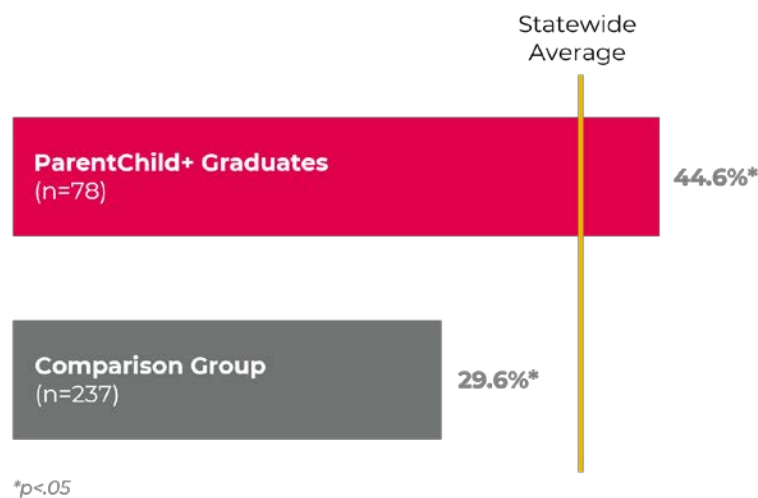Since 2006, ParentChild+ has grown from a pilot funded by the Business Partnership for Early Learning (BPEL) starting with 106 families to a United Way of King County sponsored initiative now reaching 1,200 families through nine community-based agency partners. An independent evaluation of ParentChild+ conducted by ORS Impact annually has shown participant achievement of short-term outcomes, parent-child interaction and school readiness skills development, that are indicators of school readiness. A longitudinal study, released in February 2016, demonstrates significant long-term outcomes for ParentChild+ graduates based on standardized Washington state assessments of kindergarten readiness, English language proficiency, and third grade academic performance. The analysis compares results for ParentChild+ graduates in 2008 through 2013 with a comparison group matched on ethnicity, gender, income, residence in an English or non-English-speaking household, and year entered kindergarten.
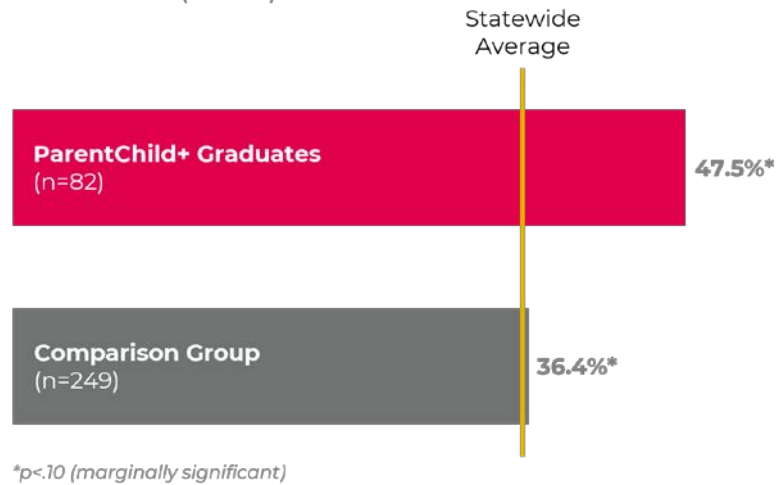
Key findings

- Significantly more ParentChild+ graduates (above the state average) were assessed as ready for kindergarten in all six domains measured by the Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS).

Figure 1 | Percent Ready for Kindergarten in All Six Domains

- Significantly more ELL ParentChild+ graduates demonstrated a higher level of English proficiency in kindergarten (Level 3 or 4 on the Washington English Language Proficiency Assessment (WELPA) Placement Test).

Figure 2 | Percent Reaching Level Advanced (Level 3)
or Transitional (Level 4) Overall

Statewide
Average

ParentChild+ Graduates
(n=82)

47.5%*

Comparison Group
(n=249)

36.4%*

*p<.10 (marginally significant)

- ParentChild+ graduates scored significantly higher on third grade WA Reading and Math achievement tests. Significantly more ParentChild+ graduates also met third grade standards in both areas and performed above the state average in Math.

Figure 3 | Percent Met Grade 3 Standard on MSP

Statewide
Average

69.8%**

67.9%*

61.3%

54.5%

ParentChild+ Graduates
(n=106)

Comparison Group
(n=319)

Grade 3 Reading

Grade 3 Math

*p<.05, **p<.15 (trend-level significance)