## THE DEVELOPMENT OF EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS IN CHILEAN PRESCHOOL CHILDREN:

## PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF SCHOOL READINESS

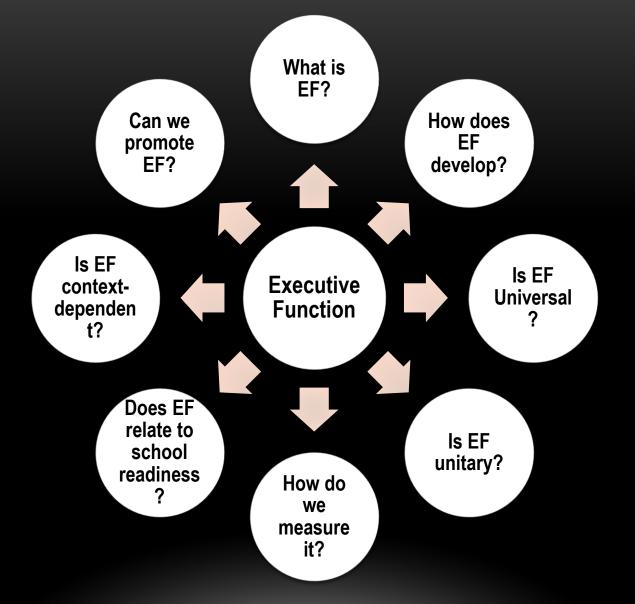


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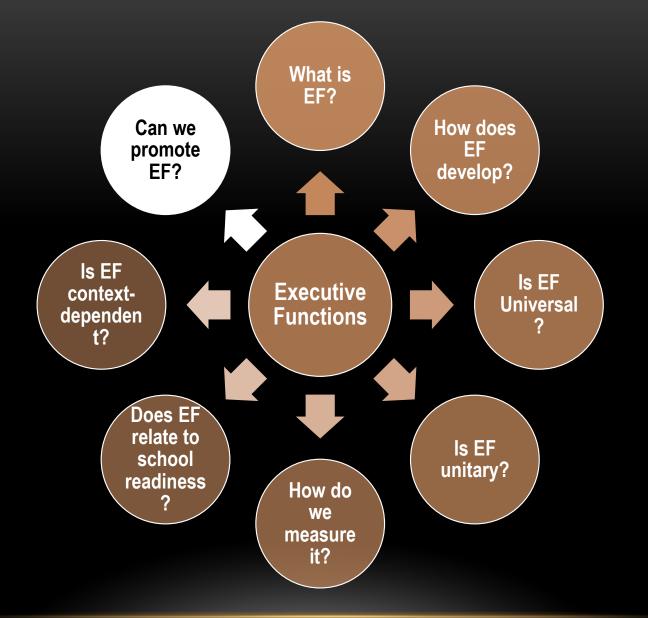
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## WHAT IS EXECUTIVE FUNCTION?





## WHY DO WE USE THE TERM SELF-REGULATION WHEN TALKING ABOUT EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS?

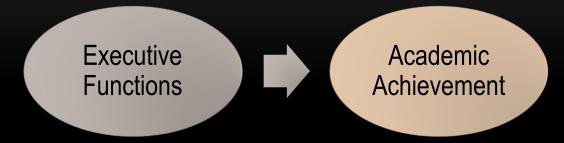
 EF is the set of cognitive processes that are integral to the emerging self-regulation of behavior and the developing social and cognitive competence in young children.

> One part of the self-regulatory system (emotion, social, behavior regulation)

 Self-regulation is a term that is more familiar and intuitive to teachers.

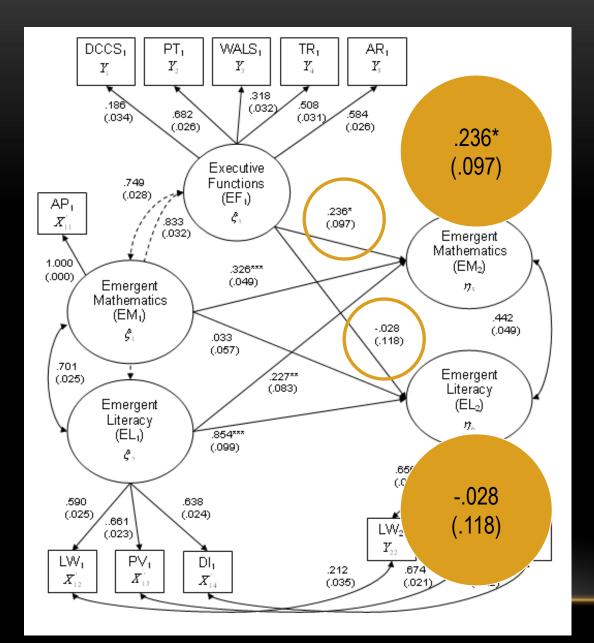


#### WHY DOES EF/SR MATTER?



- Executive functions affect academic achievement in preschool and elementary school (e.g., Blair & Razza, 2007; McClelland, Morrison, & Holmes, 2000; McClelland, Acock, & Morrison, 2006; McClelland et al., 2007; Howse, Lange, Farran, & Boyles, 2003; Welsh et al., 2010);
  - Evidence is stronger for mathematics (Bull, Johnston & Roy, 1999; Bull & Scerif, 2001; Bull, Espy & Wiebe, 2008; Ponitz, et al., 2009; Clark, Pritchard & Woodward, 2010)





# EF PREDICTS MATHEMATICS ACHIEVEMENT IN CHILEAN PRESCHOOL CLASSROOMS

(Barata, 2011)



## WHY DOES EF/SR MATTER? LONG-TERM EVIDENCE



- Attention persistence at age 4 predicted:
  - Math and reading achievement at age 21 and probability of completing college by age 25 (McCelland et al, 2012).
- Childhood self-control measured in the first decade of the child's life predicted:
  - physical health, substance dependence, personal finances, and criminal offending outcomes at age 32 (Moffitt et al., 2011)



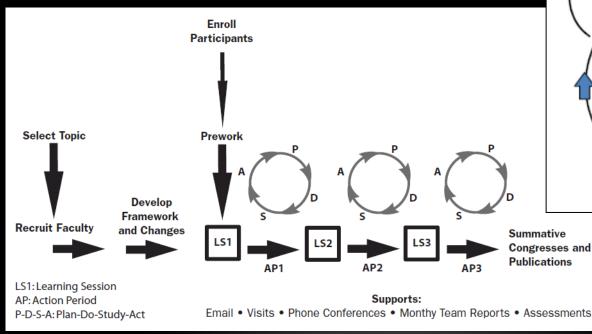
#### **CAN WE PROMOTE EF DEVELOPMENT?**

#### Yes! We can use:

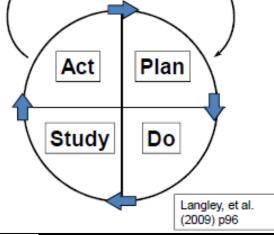
- Computerized training programs (Dowsett & Livesey, 1999; Klingberg, Forssberg & Westerberg, 2002; Klingberg, et al., 2005; Olesen, Westerberg, & Klingberg, 2004; Rueda et al., 2005; Thorell, et al., 2009)
- Classroom-based interventions (Bierman, Domitrovich, et al., 2008; Bierman, Nix, et al., 2008; Diamond, Barnett, Thomas, Munro, 2007; Domitrovich, Cortes, Greenberg, 2007; Lipina & Colombo, 2009; Raver, et al., 2008, 2011; Webster-Stratton, Re
- Yoga, dance, mindfulness training, exercise?

## CAN WE PROMOTE EF DEVELOPMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF A CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT MODEL?

# LEARNING COLLABORATIVE AND CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT MODEL IN UN BUEN COMIENZO

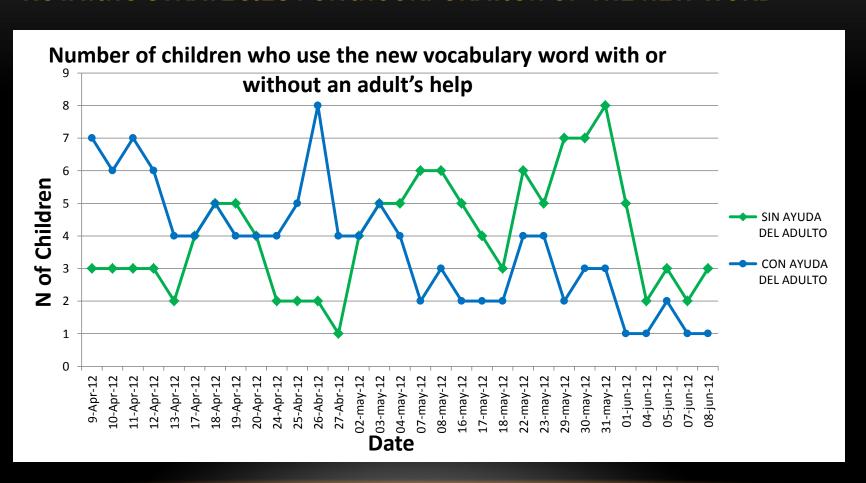


# What are we trying to accomplish? How will we know that a change is an improvement? What change can we make that will result in improvement? Act Plan



#### **EXAMPLE PDSA VOCABULARY**

GOAL: TO INTRODUCE 1 NEW VOCABULARY WORD PER DAY WITH ROTATING STRATEGIES FOR INCORPORATION OF THE NEW WORD



#### **CONTEXT FIRST BARRIERS**



- Teachers do not "see" emotional development or self-regulation associated with other school readiness skills (e.g. language).
- Strong culture around overprotection and babying of preschoolers parents expect preschool teachers to never leave kids unnatended
- Difficulty in finding a tool for target setting and/or teacher monitoring.
- Large class size (1 adult for 25 children) & heterogeneous age classrooms in rural sectors.
- Classroom team has to accomplish high number of tasks every day.
- Irregular attendance of children (<u>Basta de Yo No Fui</u>)

## WHAT WE OBSERVE IN THE CLASSROOMS



- Difficulty remaining seated.
- Difficulty concentrating.
- Difficulty following instructions and rules.
- Loss of time at the beginning or switch to another activity.
- Interruptions during class.
- Difficulty taking turns.

Promoting the development of the building blocks of school readiness

## WHAT DID WE PROPOSE TO TEACHERS?



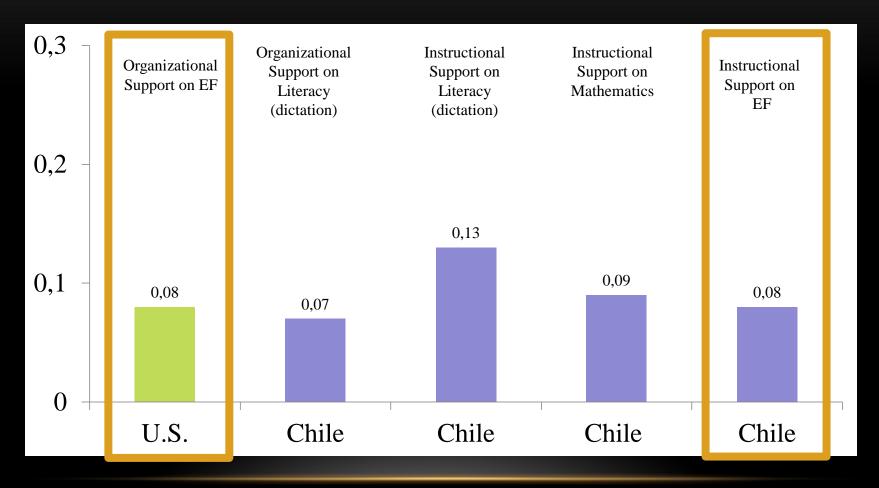
## 1. CREATE AN ORGANIZED, STIMULATING CLASSROOM CLIMATE



- Diminish exposure to situations where executivefunction skills tend to fail (Blair & Diamond, 2008).
- Increase opportunities for children to practice selfregulated learning throughout the day.



## 1. CREATE AN ORGANIZED STIMULATING CLASSROOM CLIMATE (LEYVA, 2013)



Instructional support – the pedagogical activities of the classroom – support the development of EF.

## 2. DESIGN ACTIVITIES BASED ON THE CONTINUUM OF SELF-REGULATION



(VYGOTSKYAN APPROACH TO SCAFFOLDING)



Peer directed
Dirigido por sus pares

Teacher directed

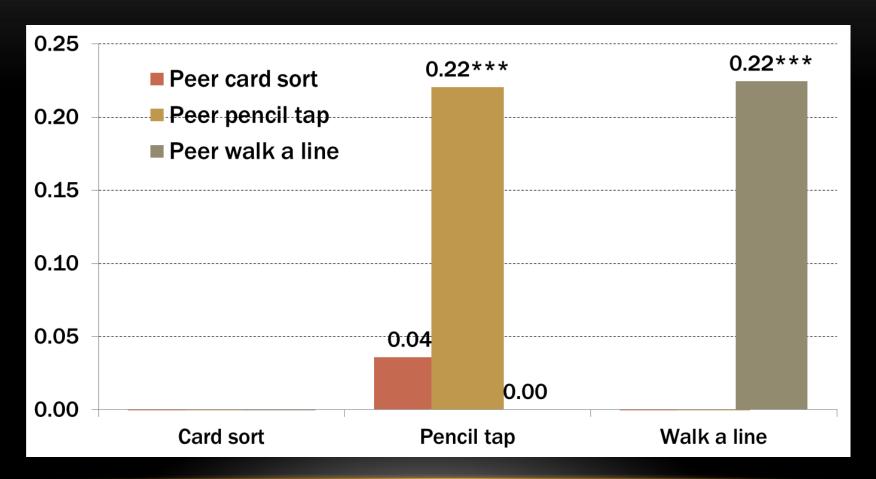
Dirigido por el profesor



Self-directed /Autodirigido



## WHY CREATE PEER-REGULATED ACTIVITIES? EVIDENCE FROM CHILE (BARATA & WEILAND, 2013, SRCD)



The benefit of having high-skilled peers for individual skill development in self-regulation

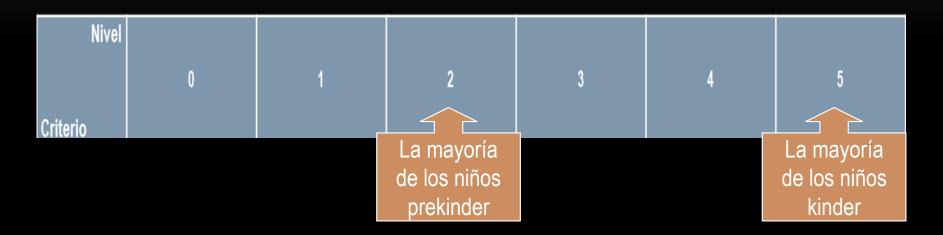




## 4. THE ZONE OF PROXIMAL DEVELOPMENT

Nivel						
	0	1	2	3	4	5
Criterio						
	El niño/a no logra las habilidades (escuchar, esperar su turno, hablar).	El niño/a logra las habilidades con el recordatorio constante de las instrucciones explicitas (mediador verbal) en cada paso de la actividad por parte de la educadora/técnico y con la utilización de mediadores concretos (Cartel, oreja, boca, monito).	El niño/a logra las habilidades con la instrucción explicita inicial de la educadora /técnico, con el recordatorio de una o dos instrucciones acerca del paso de la actividad, y la utilización de mediadores concretos (Cartel, oreja, boca, monito).	El niño/a logra las habilidades con la instrucción explicita inicial de otro niño (o más) que cumpla el rol de jefe de sala o monitor y con mediadores concretos. El monitor también recuerda los pasos de la actividad a los niño/as que lo requieran.	El niño/a logra las habilidades con la instrucción explicita inicial de otro niño (o más) que cumpla el rol de jefe de sala o monitor y sin mediadores concretos. El monitor también recuerda los pasos de la actividad a los niño/as que lo requieran.	El niño/a logra las habilidades solo o con el apoyo de un compañero/a que este realizando la misma actividad, sin la necesidad de un jefe de sala o monitor, sin la instrucción explicita de nadie y sin la utilización de mediadores.
Auto-regulación		Ei: Educadora da la instrucción general al grupo curso y luego de esto se acerca a Valentina y le dice: "Vale, recuerda que tú ahora tiene las oreja y debes escuchar a tu compañera". "Vale, recuerda que ahoratienes la boca y por lo tanto debes hablar".	Ej: Educadora da la instrucción general al grupo curso (explica cartel, pasos y rol de los mediadores) y luego de ésta el niño/a logra con esa instrucción inicial y el mediador, realizar lo que se pide. El niño/o puede necesitar uno o dos recordatorios acerca de algún paso.	Ej: Educadora selecciona a uno o más niños - monitor o jefe de sala - a quienes les dice las instrucciones para que estos guien al curso durante la actividad. El monitor o jefe de sala da la instrucción inicial (explica cartel, pasos y rol de mediadores) de la actividad girar y hablar. El monitor puede recordar a los niño/as que lo requieran los pasos a seguir, y la Educadora puede ayudar al niño monitor susurrándole en la oreja, que ayude a un determinado compañero/a.	Ei: Educadora selecciona a uno o más niños - monitor o jefe de sala - a quienes les dice las instrucciones para que estos guien al curso durante la actividad. El monitor o jefe de sala da la instrucción inicial de la actividad de Girar y hablar, sin la utilización de mediadores concretos y verbales. La Educadora puede ayudar al niño monitor susurrándole en la oreja que ayude a un determinado compañero/a.	sala y saben, sin que educadora, técnico, o monitor les diga, lo que tienen que hacer y cómo hacerlo (buscan los libros,

#### A RUBRIC FOR SELF-REGULATORY DEVELOPMENT



- Centered in 5 levels of development expected for preschool and kindergarten
- Easier to set a target for each grade level

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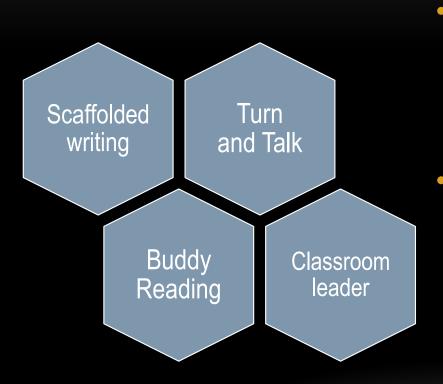
El niño/a logra las habilidades con el recordatorio constante de las instrucciones explicitas (mediador verbal) en cada paso de la actividad por parte de la educadora/técnico y con la utilización de mediadores concretos (Cartel, oreja, boca, monito).

Ei: Educadora da la instrucción general al grupo curso y luego de esto se acerca a Valentina y le dice: "Vale, recuerda que tú ahora tiene las oreja y debes escuchar a tu compañera". "Vale, recuerda que ahora tienes la boca y por lo tanto debes hablar".

- With examples of child regulated behavior at each level
- Independent of the strategy used

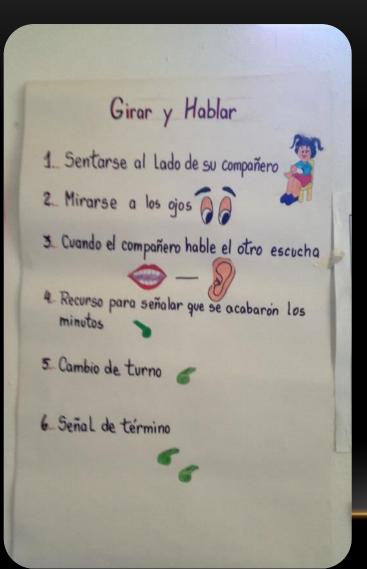


## **SELF-REGULATION STRATEGIES**



- Integrates all principles in one strategy applied at three levels from lower to higher self-regulatory demand
- Is integrated in a language task and demands for language production diretly.

#### **TURN AND TALK / GIRAR Y HABLAR**







## **BUDDY READING / LECTURA COMPARTIDA**



## SCAFFOLDED WRITING / ESCRITURA COMPARTIDA









## CLASSROOM LEADER / JEFE DE SALA



## WHAT HAVE WE FOUND SO FAR

- Focus on the self-regulation continuum: do not stop just because you can control the classroom (long-term goal setting)
- Self-regulation happens fast and kids get bored.
- Classrooms start, develop and end at different levels.
- Adding CQI to UBC improved the program and led to positive impacts on language and literacy outcomes; no test of self-regulation outcomes yet











## Thank you! Gracias! Obrigada!

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