

Links to School

*A Collaborative Service to
Promote School Readiness*

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Links to School

- **Rationale**
- **Evaluation Methods**
- **Screening and Assessments**
- **Team teaching**
- **Home visiting**
- **Transition Planning**
- **Challenges/ Future Directions**



Links to School



- **Funded by Mission Australia targeting the 2168 area of Liverpool**
- **Team includes the L2S Coordinator, Occupational Therapist and Speech Pathologist**
- **Transdisciplinary model to achieve a holistic approach to school readiness**
- **Provide a smooth transition from preschool to school**

Rationale

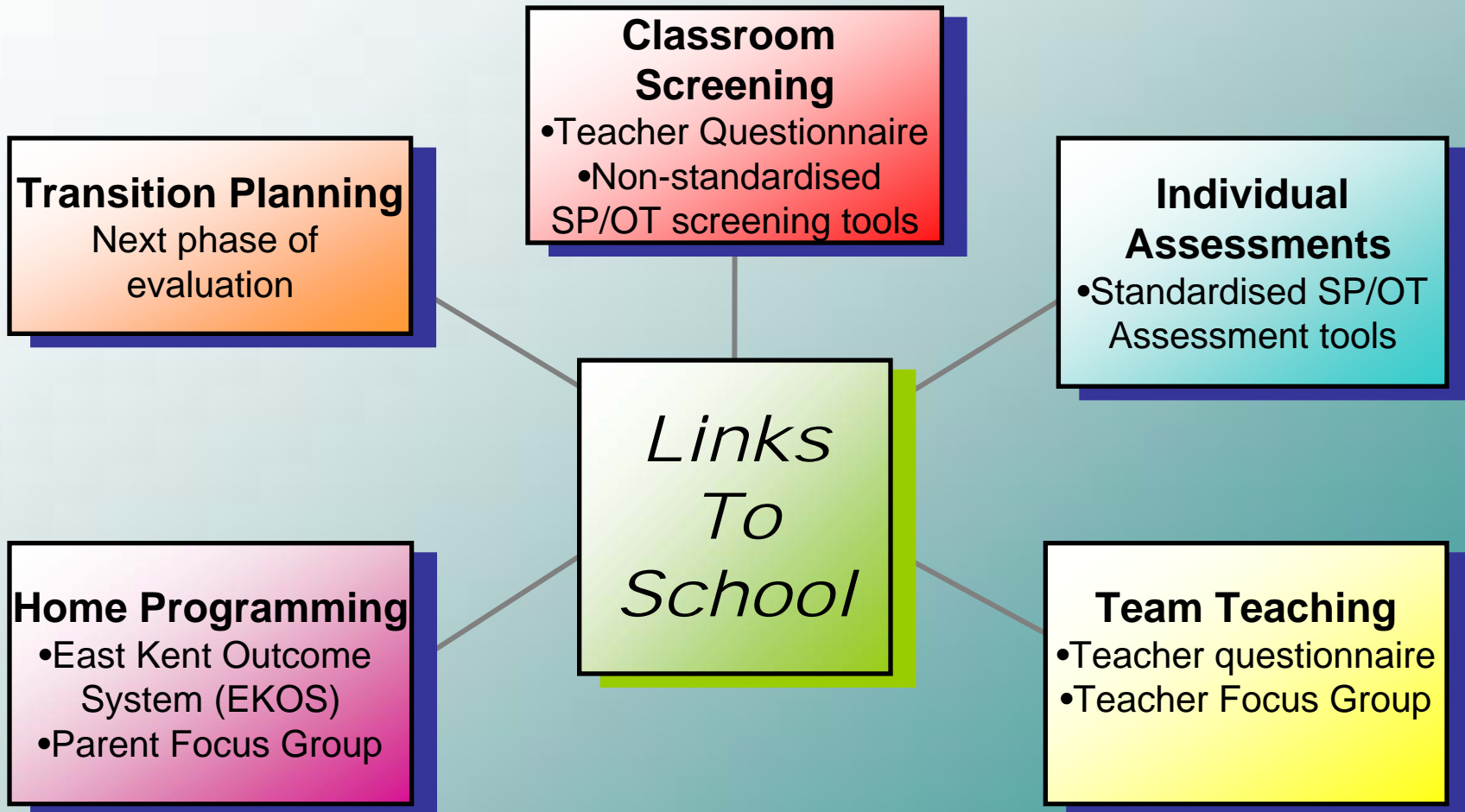
- **School readiness predicts academic progress (Schulting, 2008)**
- **Academic success influenced by multiple factors (Farrar, et al, 2007)**
 - Socio economic status
 - Health
 - Mother's education
 - Single parent status
 - Mental health
 - Home community environment



Rationale

	Target Suburbs	National
Unemployment	11%	5%
Department of Housing	58%	15%
One Parent Families	22%	15%
Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Background	62%	21%
Maternal Education	19%	38%
Median Weekly Household Income	\$681	\$1027

Project Components



Classroom Screening

- **Small group and whole class activities**
- **L2S team and teachers**
- **SP communication profile**
- **OT preschool screening tool**
- **Training for sustainability**
- **Transdisciplinary approach**



Formal Assessment

- **Assessments at school, home or in the community**
- **Assessment reports discussed in a follow up home visit**
- **Reports discussed with preschool teachers**



Screening & Assessments

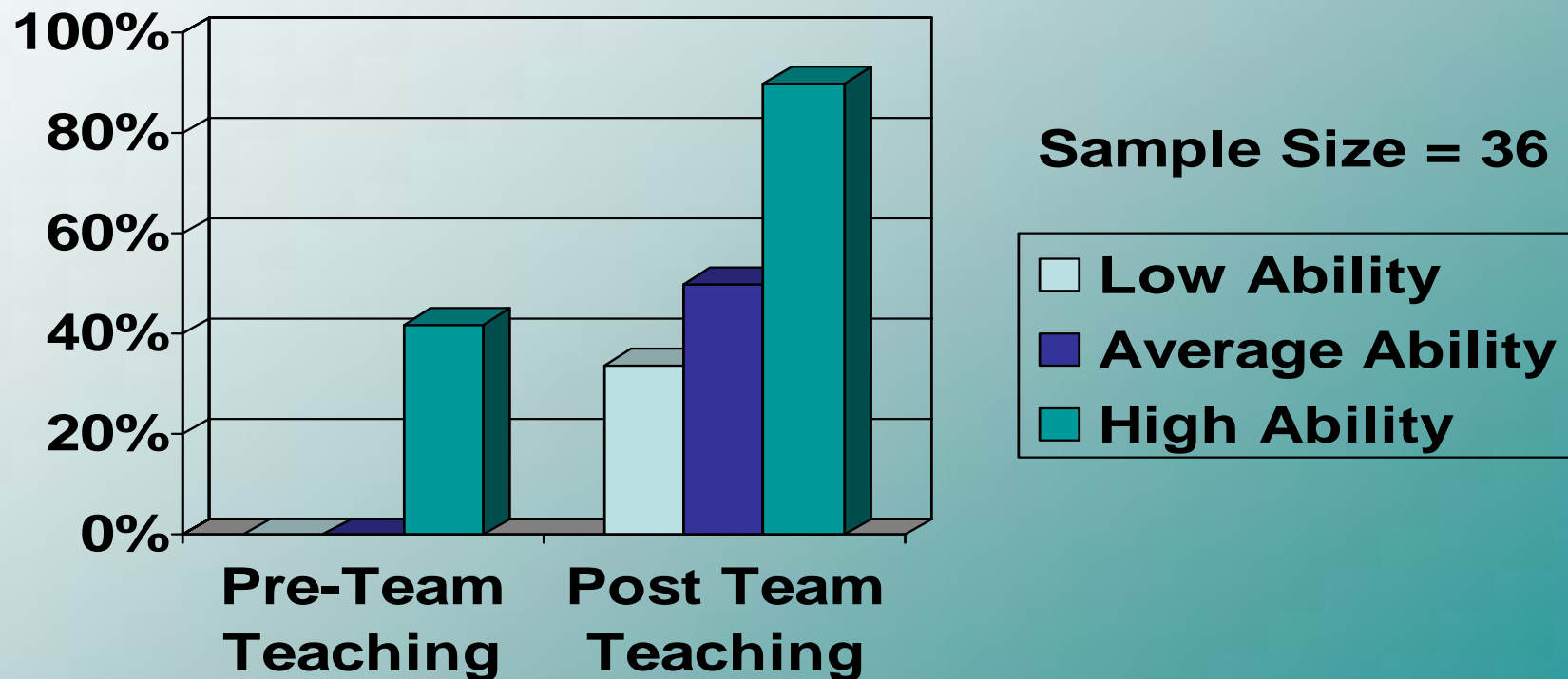
	Speech Pathology	Occupational Therapy
Number Screened	158	158
% assessed	57/158 36%	48/158 30%
% with difficulties	48/158 30%	36/158 23%

Team Teaching



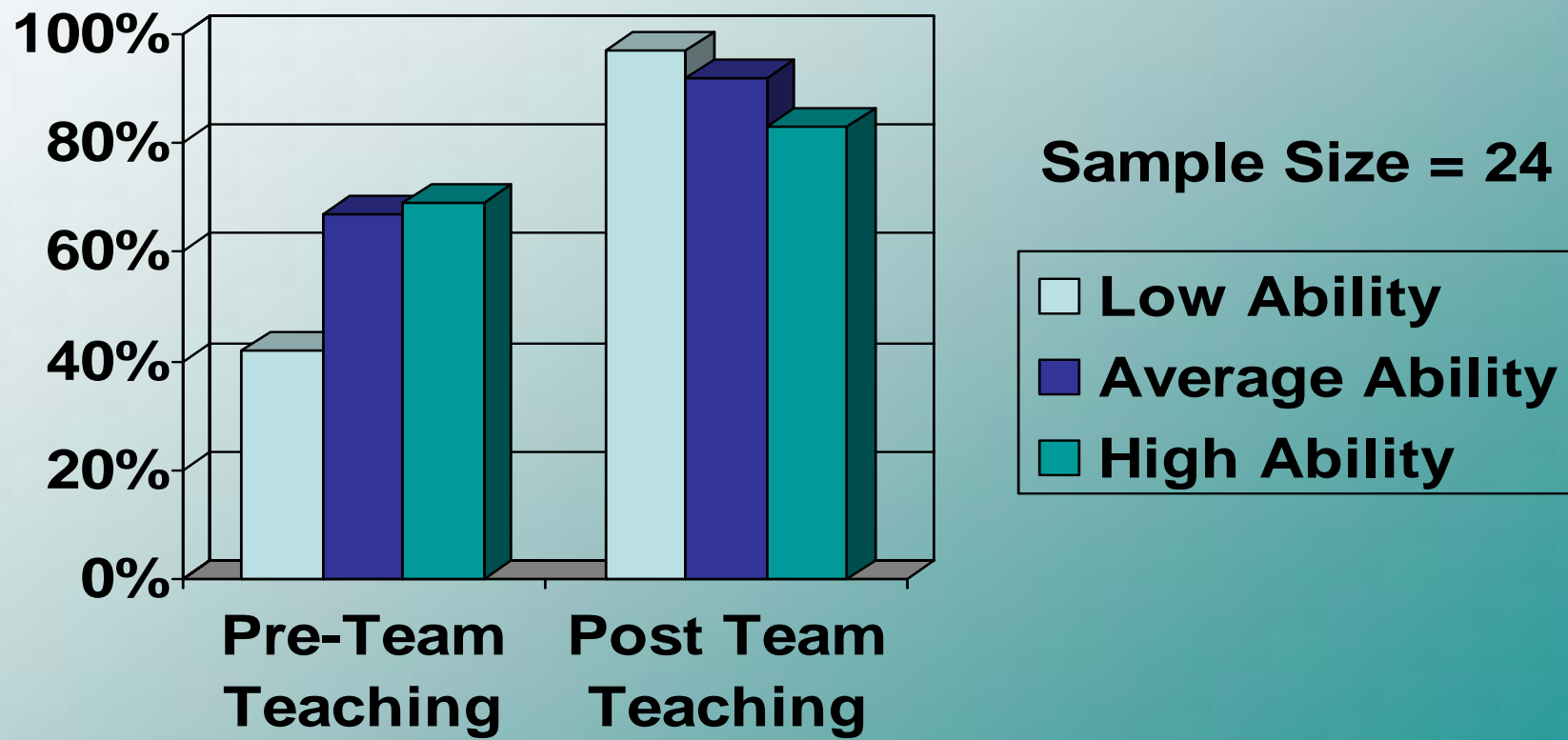
Team Teaching Outcomes

Phonological Awareness Skills



Team Teaching Outcomes

Bilateral Hand Coordination



Home Programming

- **Parent initiated involvement results in better student outcomes (Schulting, 2008)**
- **Collaboration between therapists and parents/carers**
- **Joint OT and Speech Pathologist home visits**



Home Programming

“Yeah it was really good. It meant I didn't have to leave... and my child felt a lot more comfortable having her come”

“they show me different things...simple things that have helped her...”

■ 64% of c

“...with them stepping in and

T goals



Transition Planning

- **Pre-transition and post transition handover meetings**
- **Collaboration between therapists, preschool and kindergarten teachers, school counsellors and principals**
- **Ongoing management at the Liverpool Health Service**



Project Challenges

- **Large CALD population (79% of children accessed were from a CALD background)**
- **Poor attendance at preschools**
- **Parent/carer trust**
- **Instability of project due to funding**



Future Directions

- **Lobby for ongoing funding**
- **Roll out in to other areas**
- **Training of new staff**
- **Impact of L2S in Kindergarten**

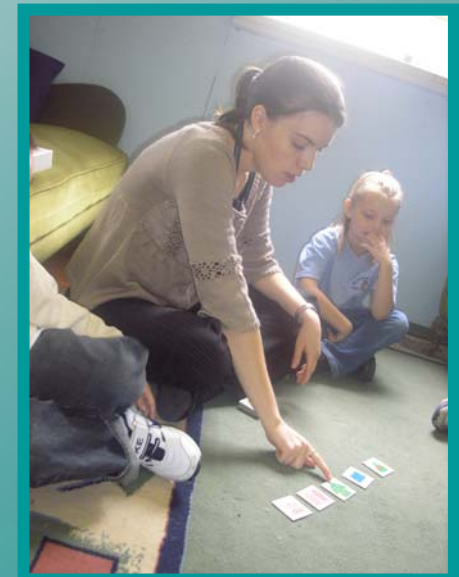


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- **Families in the 2168 area**
- **Teachers and Principals**



Questions?



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