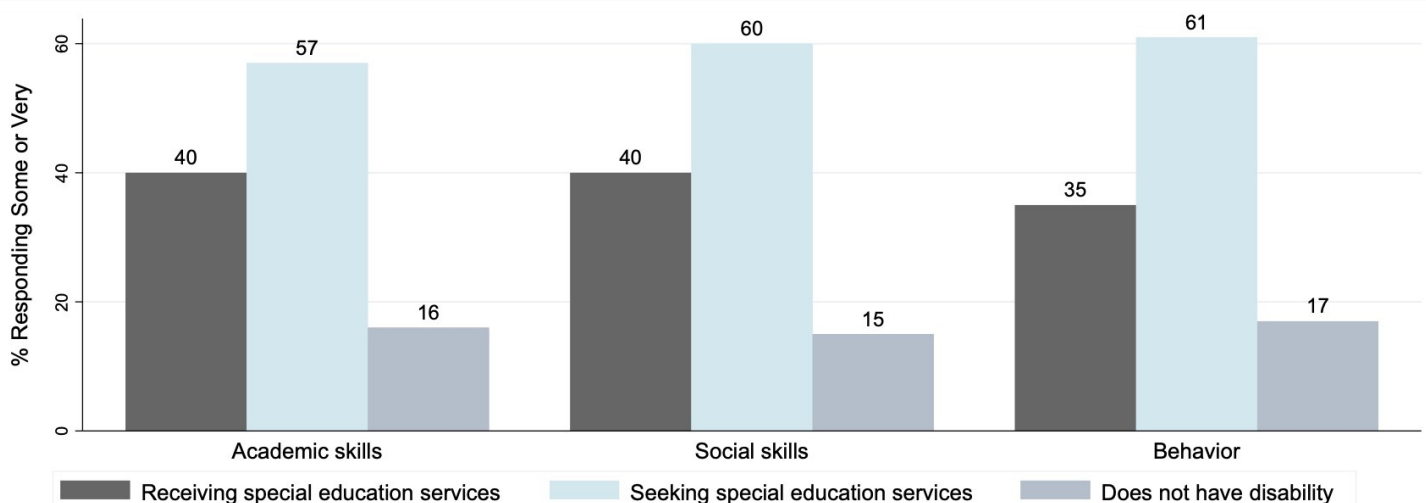


Families Seeking Special Education Supports Face Unique Challenges With Early Care and Education

Between November 2021 and January 2022 the **Study of Early Education through Partnerships** (SEE-Partnerships) administered a survey about families' experiences with early care and education (ECE), open to families with children ages 0-5 but not yet in kindergarten at publicly funded programs participating in Virginia's Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5).

This brief uses data from the roughly 3,500 respondents who replied and indicated whether or not their child had a disability. In our sample, 12% of families (N=396) indicated their child received special education supports through Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and another 72% (N=2422) indicated that their child did not have a disability. The remaining 16% reported that they were worried about their child's development but either had an evaluation that resulted in ineligibility for special education services or had not yet been evaluated. This brief highlights that this group of families had much more challenging experiences accessing the early care and education supports they needed.

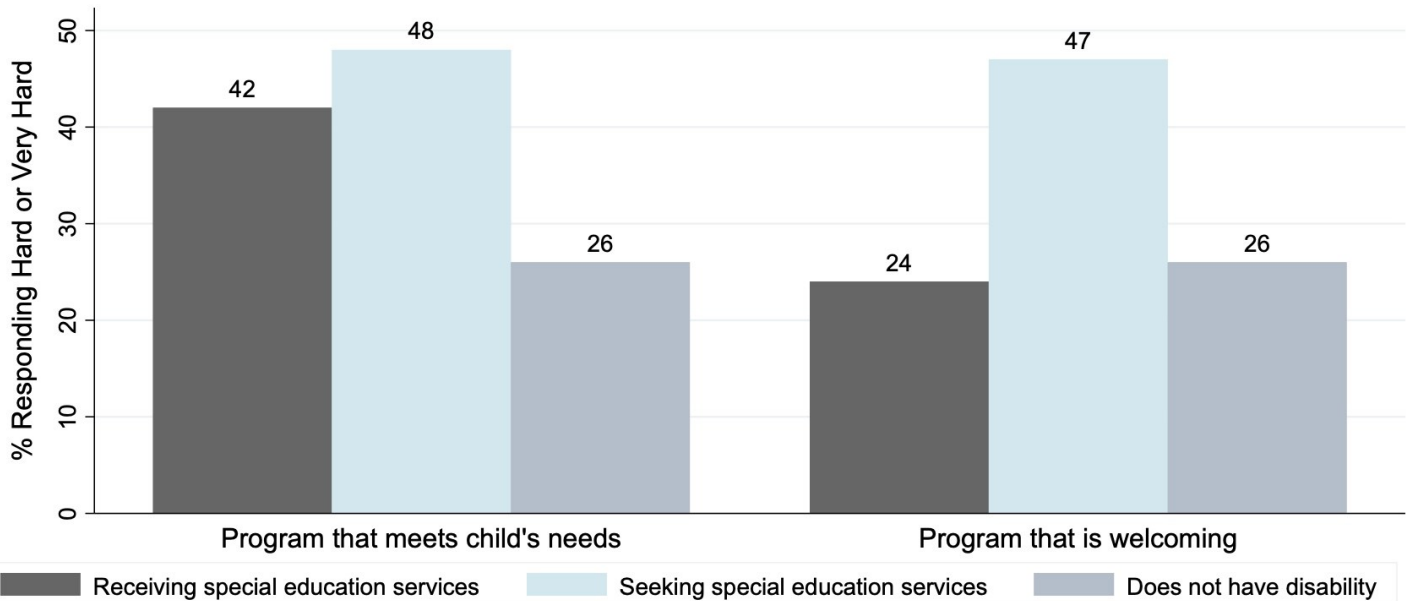
Families seeking special education services were much more likely to report concerns about their child's development.



Note: Based on responses from 3,319 -3,347 parents of children 0-5 in Virginia. Parents were asked "Currently, how worried are you about the following issues for your child? My child's academic development (e.g., learning to read, count, etc.); My child's behavior; My child's social skills/ability to interact with other children."

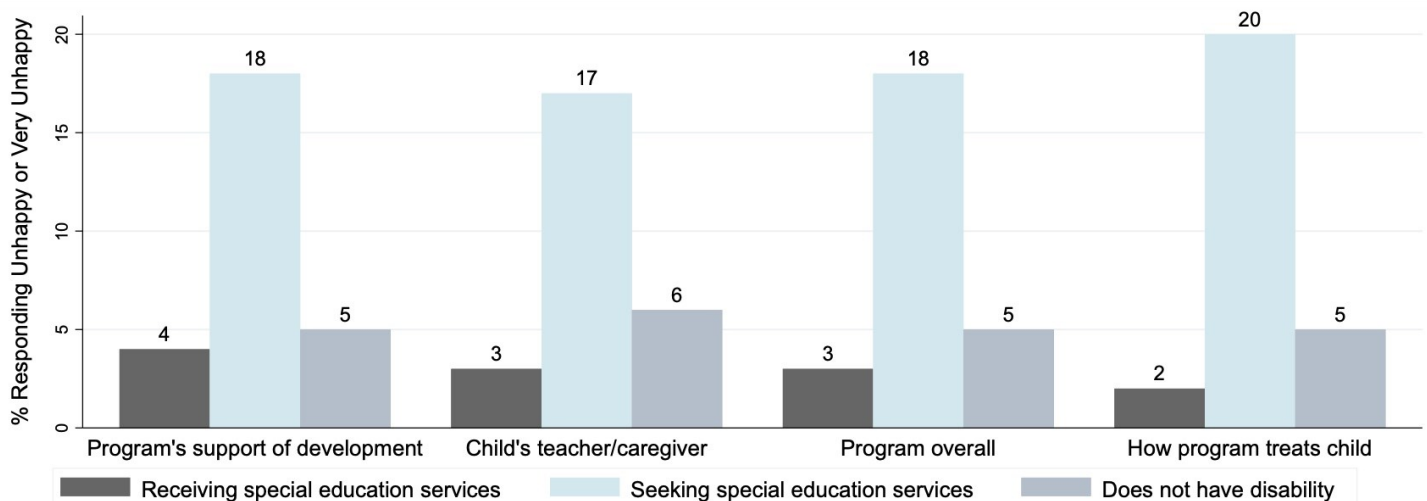
The Study of Early Education through Partnerships at the University of Virginia (UVA) has a longstanding partnership with the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) and the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF).

Families seeking special education supports struggled more to find ECE programs.



Note: Based on responses from 3,035- 3,078 parents of children 0-5 in Virginia. Parents were asked “Finding early care and/or education programs can be hard. How hard was it to find the following? Was it hard to find programs that could meet your child’s needs? Was it hard to find programs that were welcoming?”

Families seeking special education supports were more likely to report they were unhappy with their child’s ECE program.



Note: Based on the responses of 3,314-3,347 parents of children 0-5 in Virginia. Parents were asked “Think about your child’s **current** care and/or education program. How happy are you with each of the following? The way the program is supporting my child’s academic and social development; My child’s caregivers/teachers; The program overall; The way my child is treated at this program.”

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