

## International School Leadership Development Network Study Summary

1. Research team members' names and affiliations.

Ross Notman – University of Otago

Stephen Jacobson – University at Buffalo

2. Which project area does your research study address?

Leadership in high-need schools

3. Briefly describe the study setting, participants, data collection instruments, and dates of the investigation.

This study focused on leadership practices that enhanced parental involvement and student success in three quality early childhood education (ECE) centers serving diverse, high-need communities in New Zealand (NZ). The study was conducted in NZ ECE settings in 2015 and used an interview protocol first developed for the ISSPP, then subsequently modified for the ISLDN. The researchers interviewed individually the ECE leader, a subset of its teachers and focus groups of parents.

4. List key findings of the study.

We found that the centers had developed strong, nurturing relationships with their students' parents and that creating these positive school/family relationships was central to the work of the ECE leaders. The three leaders we studied believed that by increasing parental involvement they could help these economically disadvantaged families repair gaps that might impede a youngster's school success. Our findings indicate that the leaders' efforts at engaging parents were especially important in helping young parents improve their parenting skills. We argue that ECE leadership that supports parental involvement and out of school parenting skills complements in-school efforts, and together they have the potential to improve children's life chances.

5. Presentations and publications reporting the study.

### **Presentations:**

Notman, R., McNae, R. & Morrison, M. (2017, November). High needs and social justice leadership in New Zealand: A selection of cases. Paper presented at the University Council of Educational Administration annual conference, Denver, CO.

Notman, R. & Jacobson, S. (2016, November). Leadership practices in early childhood education: Three case studies from New Zealand. Paper presented at the University Council of Educational Administration annual conference. Detroit, MI.

### **Publications:**

Jacobson, S. & Notman, R. (2018). Leadership in early childhood education (ECE): Implications for parental involvement from New Zealand. *International Studies in Educational Administration*, 46(1), 86-101.

Notman, R. & Jacobson, S. (2018). School leadership practices in early childhood education (ECE): Three case studies from New Zealand. In E. Murakami, D. Gurr, & R. Notman (Eds.) *Leadership, culture and school success in high-need schools*. Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishing.

Notman, R. (2017). Holistic leadership in a high-needs early childhood centre. In R. McNae, M. Morrison, & R. Notman (Eds.) *Educational leadership in Aotearoa New Zealand: Issues of context and social justice* (pp. 130-142). Wellington, NZ: NZCER Press.