



Building Blocks for Literacy.



Tremaine Foundation

Brought to you by:



Stern Center
for Language and Learning

Research Based Early Reading & Comprehension Strategies

BUILDING BLOCKS offers research-based strategies derived from recommendations of the **National Research Council's Starting Out Right** (1998) and **National Early Literacy Panel** (2009) into preschool and childcare settings.

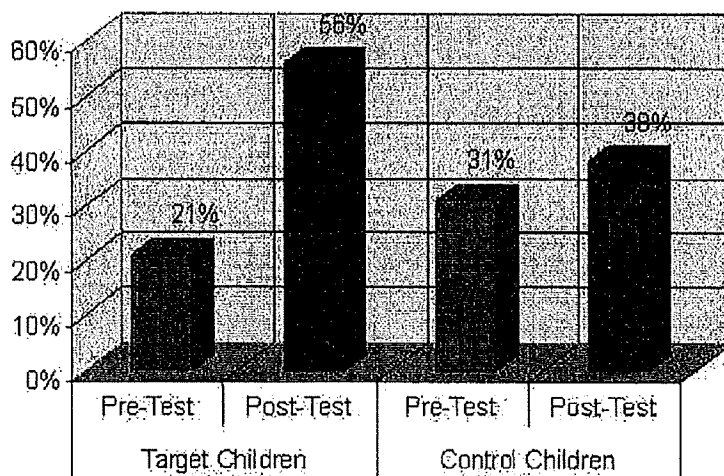
Increased Childcare Provider Knowledge Leads to Early Reading Success

Stern Center shows increasing the knowledge of early care and education providers can increase children's chances for reading success!

With more than 60 percent of mothers with children under five in the workforce, the majority of preschoolers now spend considerable time in childcare. Research published by Drs. Blanche Podhajski and Jane Nathan of the Stern Center for Language and Learning in Early Education and Development indicates that increased childcare provider knowledge increases children's opportunities for literacy success. These researchers showed that childcare providers are key to offering early language enrichment to children, particularly to those who might be at risk for reading failure.

BUILDING BLOCKS For Literacy Research Results

percent of children scoring above the at-risk level



Over the course of 6 months, 35% of target children rose from an at-risk level to above versus only 7% of the control group.

Since 1997, the Stern Center for Language and Learning has offered BUILDING BLOCKS FOR LITERACY® to childcare providers at no cost through early literacy grants from the Turrell Fund and the A.D. Henderson Foundation. Training includes a two-day course and six-month onsite mentorship.

Based on recommendations from the National Research Council, the program targeted shared book reading, phonological awareness (the insight that words are made up of sound parts) and the relationships between speech and print.

Data collected over the third year of the project have been analyzed to assess the Impact of this professional development program on children's readiness for reading. The pre-literacy skills of 88 youngsters from 67 childcare centers whose providers participated in BUILDING BLOCKS (target group) were compared to a control group of children whose providers did not participate in the program (control group).

Results of the study demonstrated that:

- Target children made significantly greater pre-literacy gains than children in the control group
- 35 percent of target children rose from an at-risk literacy level to above an at-risk literacy level, compared to only 7 percent in the control group

This study clearly demonstrates that training childcare providers in research-based language enrichment interventions not only helps to increase children's pre-literacy skills, but also may serve to decrease the number of children who will enter kindergarten in an at-risk category for reading failure. These Vermont findings have national implications. Currently, nearly 35 percent of children in the United States enter public school in an at-risk level for reading difficulties.

Literacy gaps between these at-risk children and the rest of their peers often widen over time. With repeated school challenges, the chance for future academic success diminishes. Given this negative spiral, it is not surprising that a staggering 35 percent of all children with reading problems eventually drop out of school.

Instead of waiting for children to fail, early language enrichment delivered by informed childcare providers during the pre-school years can help reduce later reading difficulties, low self-esteem, and special education costs.

Since 1997, more than 1,000 Vermont providers have participated in the BUILDING BLOCKS program, impacting over 20,000 children. For more information and a reprint of the article Promoting Early Literacy through Professional Development for Childcare Providers, please contact the Stern Center for Language and Learning at (802) 878-2332.

The article from the New England Reading Association Journal Volume 41 Number 2 "A Pathway to Reading Success: Building Blocks for Literacy" by Blanche Podhajski and Jane Nathan can be viewed **online after subscribing or through your library**, if applicable.

Additional research will be published following the completion of the Idaho Early Literacy Project.

Blog

Heritage Property and Casualty Insurance Donates \$50,000 to Florida's Pinellas Education Foundation for Building Blocks for Literacy Implementation

Grant will allow Building Blocks to promote early literacy skills to 900+ children during their formative years and teach providers and parents how to foster those skills.

(16846 Replies)

Get Your Questions About Dyslexia Answered!

Join us for the Stern Center's free, interactive webinar, "Ask an Expert About Dyslexia," July 18, 2013 from 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. EDT

Visit www.sterncenter.org for more information and to register.

(66 Replies)

You Are in Good Company...

More than 600 visitors a month explore this free online resource to promote early literacy skills in preschoolers.

(3 Replies)

Sponsored By:



5/8/2019

Early Childhood Education, Pre-literacy & Comprehension Research | BUILDING BLOCKS FOR LITERACY®

Developed by Blanche Podhajski, Ph.D.; Nancy Clements, M.A., CCC-SLP; Brenda Buzzell, M.Ed., Marilyn Varrichio, M. Ed.

©2008 Stern Center for Language and Learning

183 Talcott Road, Suite 101, Williston, VT 05495-9209 (802-878-2332)

For help and support, please **contact us**.

Vermont website design, graphic design, and web hosting provided by Vermont Design Works

