



# LENA Grow Supports Quality Counts California

## About LENA Grow

LENA is a national nonprofit on a mission to transform children's futures through early talk technology and data-driven programs.

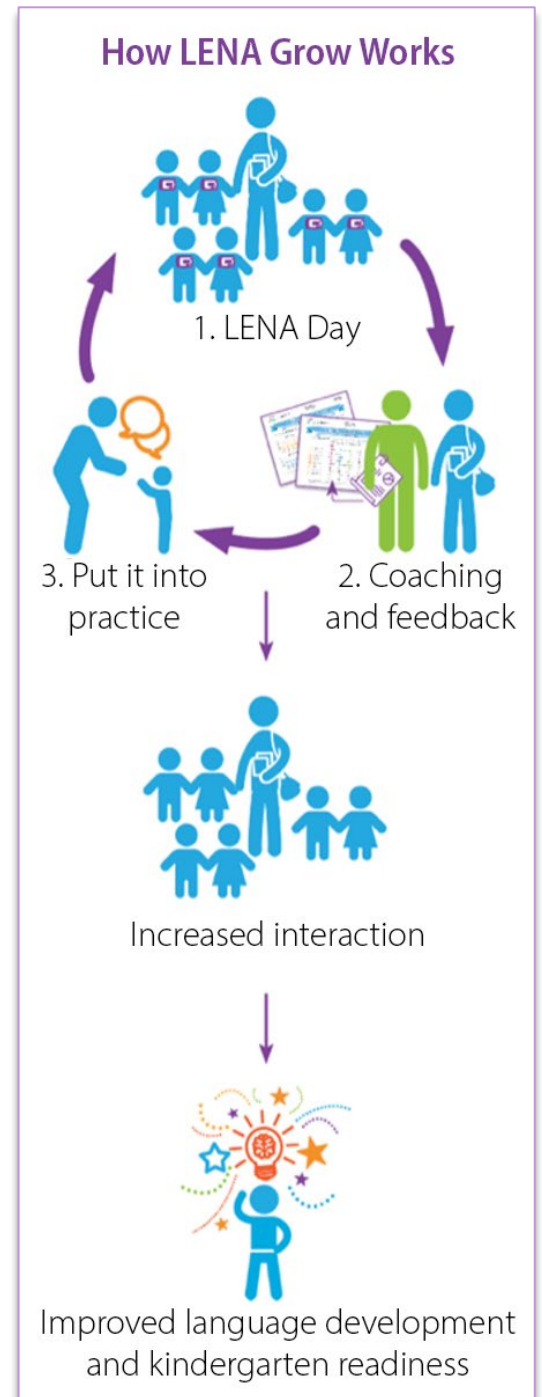
LENA Grow is an evidence-based professional development program that supports continuous quality improvement in the classroom targeting teacher-child interactions. It is rooted in [over two decades of peer-reviewed research](#) linking conversational turns to improved language, cognitive, and social-emotional development. To equitably improve interactions, teachers participate in LENA Grow's five-week reflective feedback cycle. The cycle employs LENA's "talk pedometer" technology, classroom- and child-level data, strengths-based coaching, and early talk strategies to measurably increase conversational turns, one of the most predictive metrics of child outcomes. The program supports **Quality Counts California's Core Components of Child Development & School Readiness, Teachers and Teaching, and Program and Environment.**

There are a lot of things [LENA Grow](#) does:

- Draws on LENA's widely validated "talk pedometer" technology.
- Increases CLASS® scores across all domains.
- Increases TS GOLD® scores in the domains of Language, Literacy, Cognitive, and Social-Emotional.
- Increases DECA scores.
- Brings children out of language isolation.
- Creates more equitable language environments.
- Increases teacher job satisfaction, self-efficacy, and retention.
- Aligns with and enhances a wide range of tools, including CLASS®, Head Start Performance Standards and Early Learning Outcomes, ZERO TO THREE Critical Competencies™, and the Pyramid Model for Promoting Social Emotional Competencies in Infants and Young Children.

There are also a few things LENA Grow doesn't do:

- Put any extra burdens on teachers.
- Presume that teachers are doing anything wrong. Rather, it recognizes their strengths and builds on them.
- Expect teachers to sit in front of a screen and learn passively. Rather, it involves them as active participants in their own professional growth.



Visit [www.LENA.org](http://www.LENA.org) or email [info@LENA.org](mailto:info@LENA.org) to learn more.

# What makes LENA Grow Unique?

State QRIS systems vary widely in how they measure classroom quality, specifically teacher-child interactions. Currently, **no QIS includes measuring and improving interactions from the point of view of individual children's experiences**. LENA believes this should change because LENA's data has shown that one in four children experiences very little adult-child interaction, even within classrooms at centers that have achieved the highest QRIS rating possible (LENA Foundation, 2022b).

Here is an example of a coaching session and how the LENA reports support strengths-based conversations about what educators' real-life classroom days are like, along with the experiences and behaviors of individual children.

**Coach:** What do you notice about hourly turns this week?

**Teacher:** Wow, our turns are really high in the morning, during center time, but not as high at 2 o'clock. That's after nap when we go outside and play.

**Coach:** Interesting! This week we are actually going to talk about indoor and outdoor play talk strategies. Maybe there are some strategies you use during center time that you could extend to outdoor play time!

**Coach:** What do you notice about the child-level data this week?

**Teacher:** Our Turns with Sage have really increased since last week! I'm not surprised Khalil's experiencing fewer turns. He's new in class and isn't quite comfortable with me and our class routines yet.

**Coach:** I know you have been working hard on increasing talk with Sage by letting her lead the way and choose what she wants to do during centers. Are there any Talking Tips you think might help build more trust and comfort with Khalil?

**Teacher:** I've noticed Khalil will talk more with me during quieter times of day. Sometimes he's the last child to be picked up, but I'm usually trying to clean up a bit at that time. Maybe I could try spending more time with him at the end of the day when there are fewer children in the room.


# LENA Grow Supports Quality Counts California Core I: Child Development and School Readiness

Peer-reviewed research links **conversational turns**, the core component of the LENA Grow program, to the following **child outcomes**:

- Brain structure (Romeo et al., 2018a)
- Brain function (Romeo et al., 2018b; Huber et al., 2023)
- Executive functioning (Romeo et al., 2021)
- Reading skills (Weiss et al., 2022)
- Language skills (Gilkerson et al., 2018)
- Vocabulary Skills (Duncan et al., 2022)
- Social-Emotional Development (Gómez Muzzio & Strasser, 2021)
- IQ scores (Gilkerson et al., 2018)

LENA Grow’s **detailed child-level data** helps teachers **individualize instruction and increase conversational turns** with each unique child which supports the following domains of the California Foundations and the Desired Results Developmental Profile® (DRDP).

The weekly coaching content focuses on how to increase conversational turns during everyday routines and in early literacy and math.

	California Preschool Learning Foundations Supported by LENA Grow	Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) Domains Supported by LENA Grow
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social-Emotional Development</li> <li>• Language and Literacy</li> <li>• English-Language Development</li> <li>• Mathematics</li> <li>• Visual and Performing Arts</li> <li>• Health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approaches to Learning and Self-Regulation</li> <li>• Social and Emotional Development</li> <li>• Language and Literacy Development</li> <li>• English Language Development</li> <li>• Cognition, Including Math and Science</li> <li>• Visual and Performing Arts</li> <li>• Physical Development- Health</li> </ul>

The acceleration of child development is reflected in child outcomes on widely used assessments. Children in LENA Grow classrooms have shown increases in TS GOLD® language scores (Dynia, 2022; Heilmann & Moyle, 2022; LENA Foundation, 2023c; LENA Foundation, 2023d) and LENA Developmental Snapshot scores (LENA Foundation, 2022a). Research has shown LENA Grow to have impacts on children’s social and emotional health, including improved DECA (Devereux Early Childhood Assessment) scores (LENA Foundation, 2022c; LENA Foundation 2023d).

See [LENA’s full Crosswalk with DRDP](#).

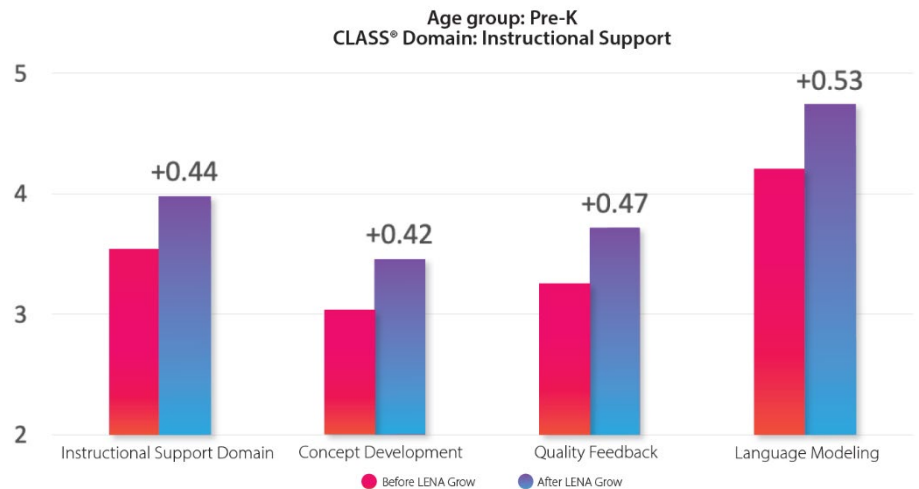
# LENA Grow Supports Quality Counts California Core II: Teachers and Teaching

## Professional Development

LENA Grow consistently show increases in teachers' sense of self-confidence and job satisfaction (Dydia, 2022; LENA Foundation, 2023b). In addition, it works well for both new and veteran teachers, with the most significant impacts seen in teachers with fewer than five years' experience (LENA Foundation, 2022d). A big factor in this is that teachers enjoy the program, with 95% of them recommending it to other teachers (LENA Foundation, 2021).

## Effective Teacher-Child Interactions

LENA Grow is a job-embedded coaching program that provides professional development to early childhood teachers serving children from birth to kindergarten entry. As a result of this program, classrooms consistently see increases in CLASS® scores — especially within the domain of Instructional Support, where high scores are particularly difficult to achieve (LENA Foundation, 2023a).



### In ELC of Sarasota County, Pre-K

classrooms experienced **significant increases in all three CLASS® domains**. Classrooms **increased significantly in the dimensions under the Instructional Support domain**: +14% on Concept Development, +14% on Quality of Feedback, and +13% on Language Modeling (LENA Foundation, 2023c).

See the full [CLASS Alignment here](#).

# LENA Grow Supports Quality Counts California Core III: Program and Environment

## Family Engagement

LENA Grow's built-in family engagement resources make it easier for teachers, coaches, and center directors to build partnerships with families that strengthen the school-home connection. An entire coaching session is dedicated to creating an intentional family engagement plan, leveraging the resources provided as part of the LENA Grow Program. Over three-quarters of the teachers who participate in LENA Grow say that the program increased their communication with parents (2023e).

Resources are available in both print and digital formats, with Spanish and English versions for all, including:

- Letters to families describing each part of the program sequence.
- [Family Talk Handouts](#) designed to give families strategies to increase talk that they can easily weave into their everyday routines.
- Personalized individual child reports.
- Easy-to-share [social media posts](#).
- Growing library of family-friendly content available through [LENA's downloadable resources](#).

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