

Family Engagement

When working with families, we all have as much to learn as we have to share. It's important to listen and observe what motivates, challenges, and excites parents and caregivers. Family engagement resources are provided throughout the program to support you as you answer questions, communicate progress, and share talk strategies.

Enrolling Families in LENA Grow

Parents and caregivers will learn about LENA through the LENA consent form. While this form explains how LENA Grow supports early talk in the classroom, parents and caregivers may still have questions:



Family Engagement

Maximize communication by sharing LENA Grow plans during back-to-school night or family conferences in addition to sending home the consent. Ask your coach for additional resources to support this communication.

1. Why is my school or center participating in LENA Grow?

Since conversations (back-and-forth talk between adults and children) are key to nurturing early brain growth, we want to measure our classroom talk. Gathering data on how often we talk with children helps us improve the quality of your child's language environment.

2. Why does my child need to wear LENA clothing?

The LENA device helps us capture all the daily conversations experienced by your child. LENA clothing is designed to keep the LENA device close to your child's mouth, which is necessary to accurately measure your child's speech.

3. Is this safe for my child?

Yes, LENA devices are completely safe! They have been used by thousands of children around the world for more than 15 years in a wide variety of environments, including Neonatal Intensive Care Units. LENA devices do not transmit (unlike a cellphone). They use the same kind of very low-power processors as hearing aids.

4. How does LENA technology work?

The LENA device works like a pedometer. Instead of counting steps, it counts words and conversations. For more information on the LENA device, visit LENA.org/technology.

5. Can I listen to what is happening in the classroom?

No, LENA devices cannot play back. Recordings are deleted right after they are processed, so no one can ever listen to what was said.

6. What about privacy and security?

LENA takes privacy very seriously. They meet strict confidentiality and data security requirements. Learn more at LENA.org/privacy.