

The TS GOLD[®] Evidence: How LENA Grow Impacts Child Development



What We Found

Children in classrooms using LENA Grow made bigger jumps in their learning than children who didn't use the program. Teachers measured these gains using Teaching Strategies GOLD[®], a widely used tool that tracks how children develop language, literacy, social, and other important skills.

Positive Results From a National Study

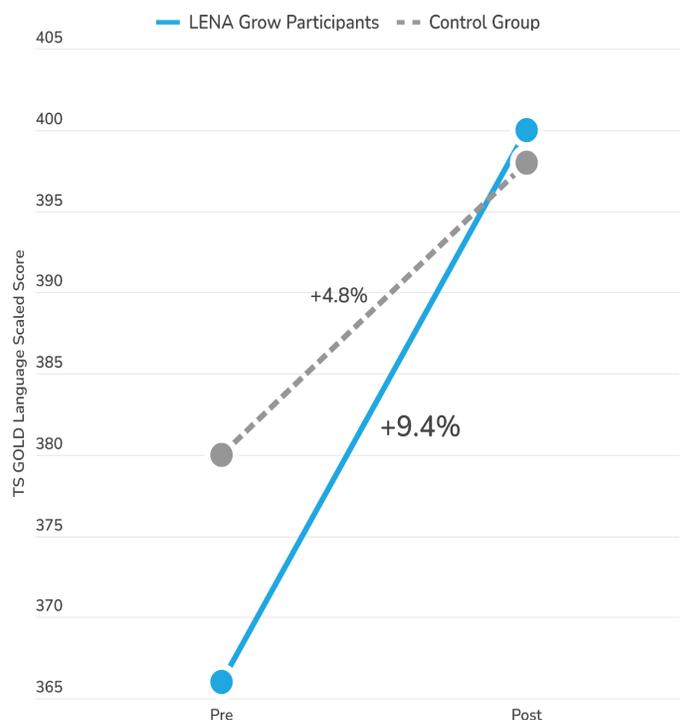
In a study of children aged 0-5 at five early learning sites across the U.S., LENA Grow children (n=435) experienced significantly larger gains in TS GOLD language scores compared to a control group (n=393). The difference in these gains supports the claim that LENA Grow children experience accelerated language development.

Big Impacts for Children at Risk of Delays

The GOLD assessment identifies children whose language development falls below “widely held expectations” (WHE), which is a measure that “describes the range of knowledge, skills, and abilities that children of a particular age or class/grade typically demonstrate over a year of life.” Children who fell below WHE saw an especially positive impact from participating in LENA Grow.

Language Objective

- Among the children who were in LENA Grow classrooms and began the program “below WHE,” 60% advanced to “meets/exceeds WHE” after LENA Grow.
- LENA Grow participants were **2x more likely than non-LENA Grow participants to advance out of “below WHE.”**



Social-Emotional Objective

- Among the children who were in LENA Grow classrooms and began the program “below WHE,” 67% advanced to “meets/exceeds WHE” after LENA Grow.
- LENA Grow participants were **2x more likely than non-LENA Grow participants to advance out of “below WHE.”**

Three Studies, Three Locations, Same Success

Smaller evaluations in three different states suggest that LENA Grow is effective at raising TS GOLD scores.

Sarasota County, Florida

176 children | 29 classrooms

The Big Win:

- Two-thirds of the children who started behind caught up to grade level.
- 88% of children increased in total raw language scores.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

156 children, split into LENA Grow and comparison groups

The Big Win:

- Literacy: LENA Grow +46 points vs. Comparison +10 points

Columbus, Ohio

106 children | 8 classrooms | Randomized study design

The Big Win:

- Language: LENA Grow +49 points vs. comparison +10 points
- Literacy: LENA Grow +39 points vs. comparison -2 points

What Changed

LENA Grow gave teachers something rare: specific feedback. Not just a few times a year. Every week for five weeks. And those five weeks translate to sustained improvements in teaching practices!

“When teachers are using [LENA Grow], we want them to ask the question: ‘What does this mean to me? What does this mean about what I’m doing for young children?’”

— Dr. Nicol Russell, Vice President of Implementation Research at Teaching Strategies



“Even the quietest ones have opened up and are talking more. Helping them develop more words will make them feel stronger, and make them more confident in talking to a teacher or their friends.”

— Mae Xiong, educator at Neighborhood House of Milwaukee in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

The reports showed:

- How many conversations each child experienced
- Which children were getting left behind
- Whether new strategies increased interaction

In Ohio, Dr. Jaclyn Dynia watched teachers with 15+ years of experience transform their practice. “This was the first time teachers were able to see data around what was happening in their classrooms in a real-time setting,” she said. “That was really motivating.”