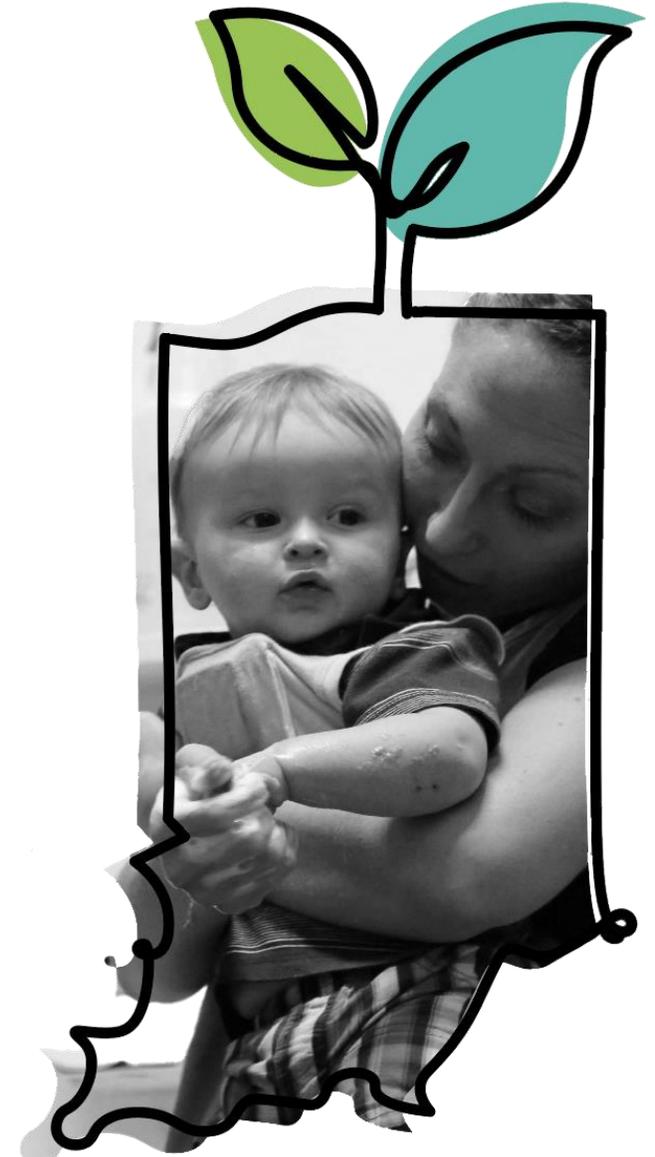


From Words to Impact: A Year of LENA Grow In Indiana

September 2025



Meet Our Panel



**Charlotte
Johnson**

Statewide
Manager, Indiana
LENA



Luis Bernal

Regional
Partnerships
Director
LENA



**Charity
Coppola**

LENA Program
Coordinator
Early Learning
Indiana



**Amanda
Cragun**

Director of Early
Learning
United Day Care,
Muncie



Agenda

- What is LENA?
- Why LENA in Indiana?
- What does the data show us?
 - Data from Year 1: Language interaction + teacher surveys
 - Insights from Year 1
 - Implementation partners- Early Learning Indiana
 - Provider and teacher perspectives
- What's next?



Early Childhood Education and Care in Indiana:

Where does LENA fit in?

LENA[®]

Our Mission

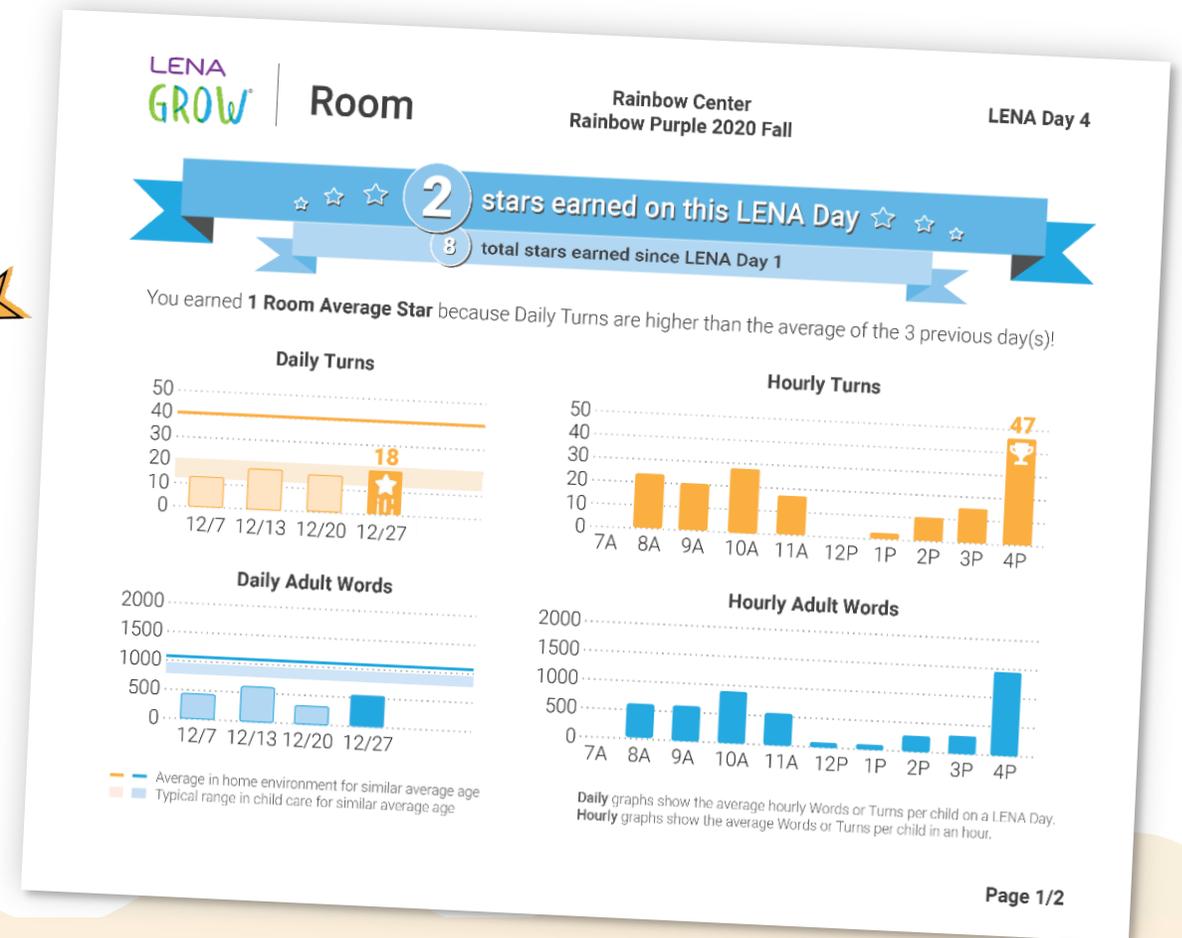
Our mission is to transform children's futures through early talk technology and data-driven programs.



Wearable Technology



Actionable Reports

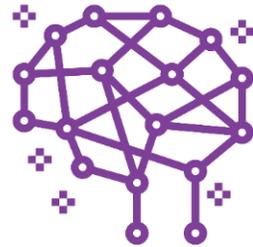


Why Care about Conversational Turns?

Research has linked children's conversational turns to...



**Brain
Function**



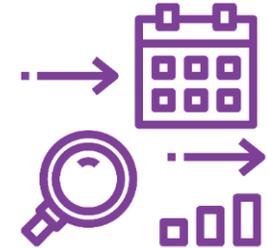
**Brain
Structure**



**Vocab & Early
Literacy Skills**



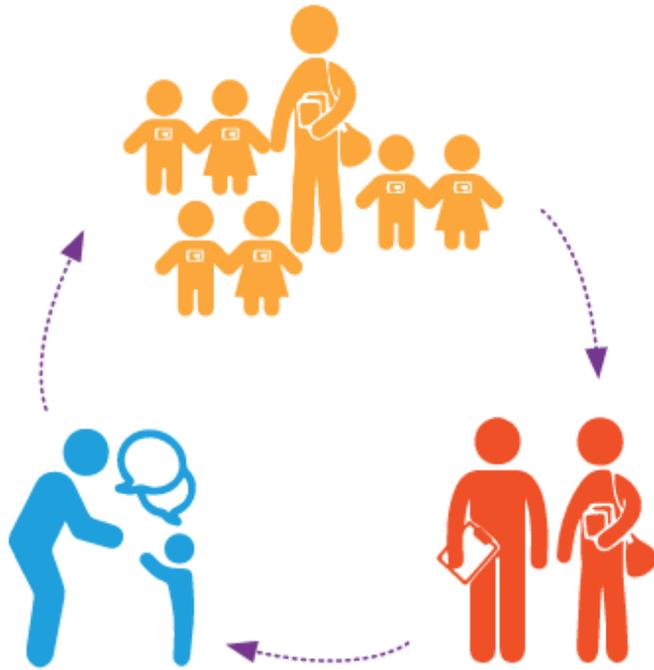
**Social
Skills**



**Long-term
Outcomes**



How it works



1. A LENA Day. One day per week for five weeks, children wear the LENA device to measure their teachers' interactive talk.

2. Coaching and feedback. Teachers reflect on their talk data with strengths-based guidance from an instructional coach.

3. Practice days. Teachers work towards measurable improvement on their next LENA Day.



LENA Grow in Indiana

Since the Fall of 2024, LENA Grow sequences in partnership with Early Learning Indiana have reached:



1,156
Children



166
Teachers

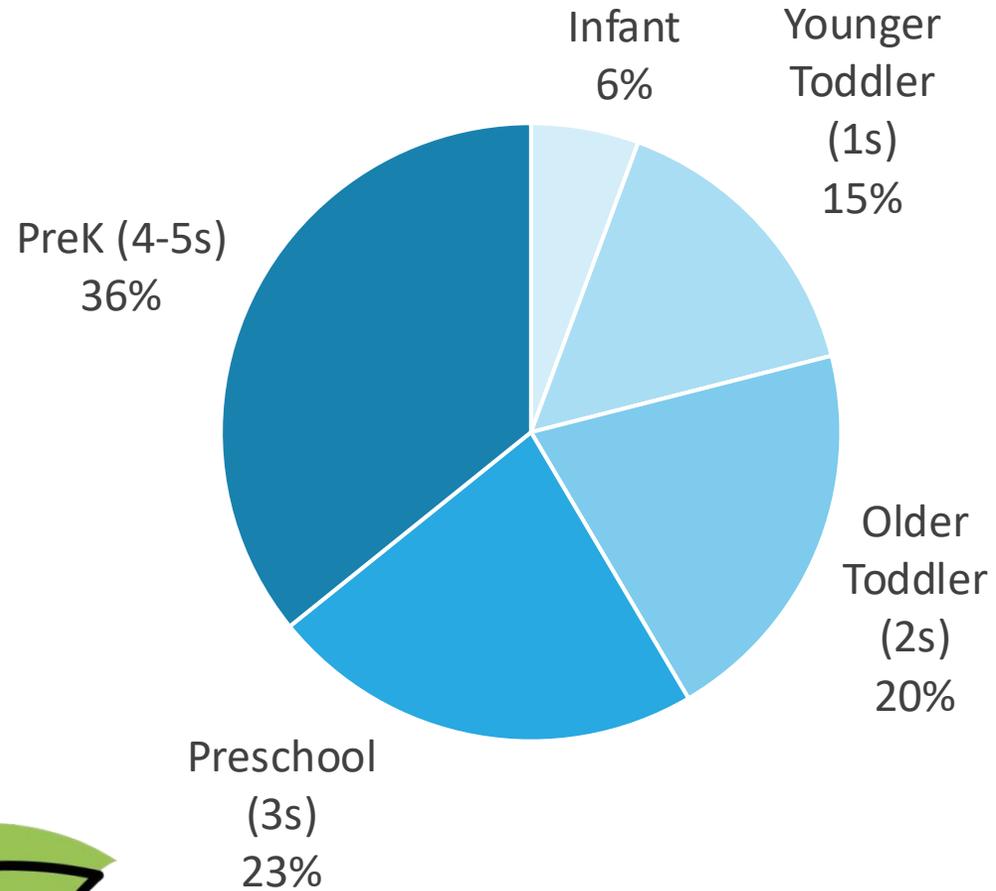


104
Classrooms

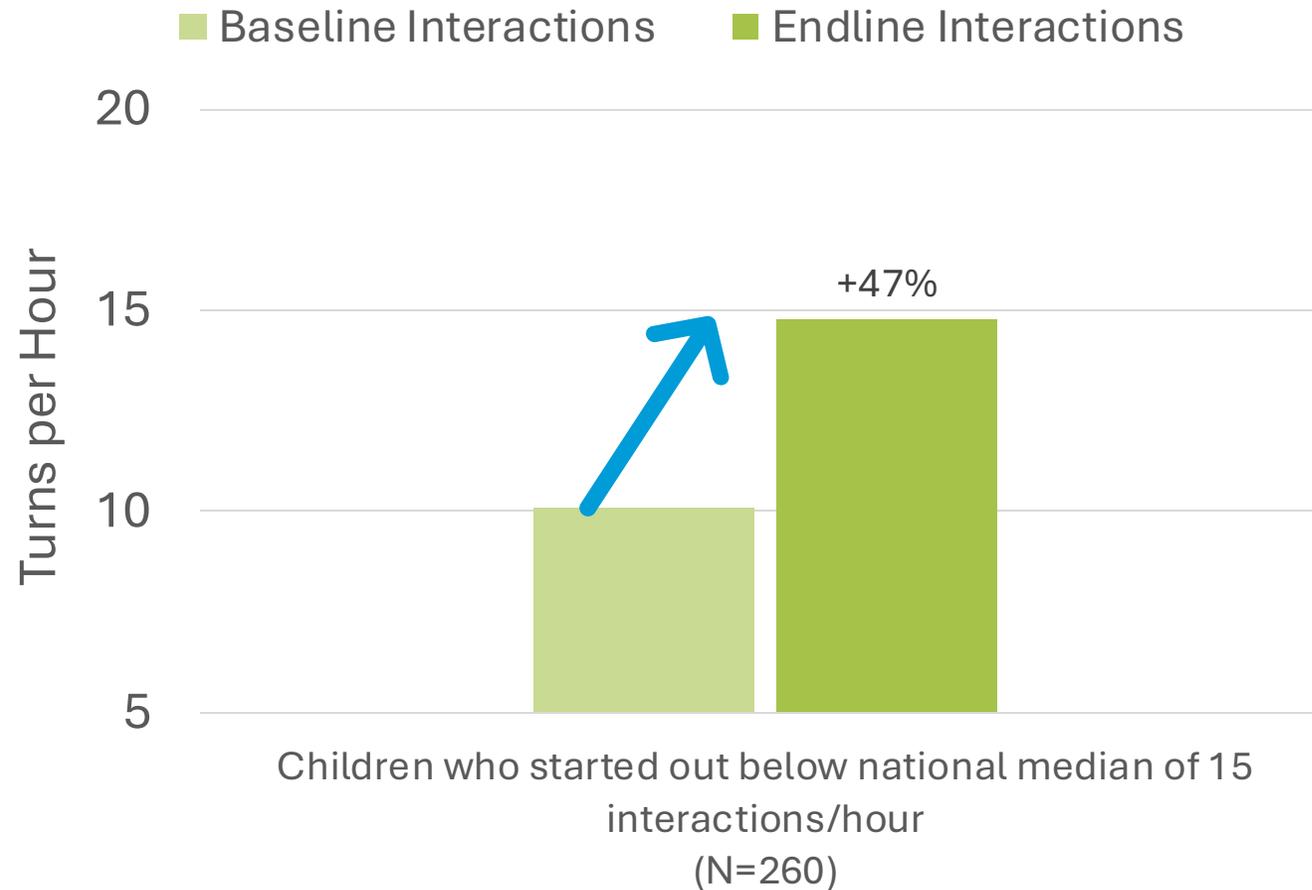


30
Sites

Characteristics



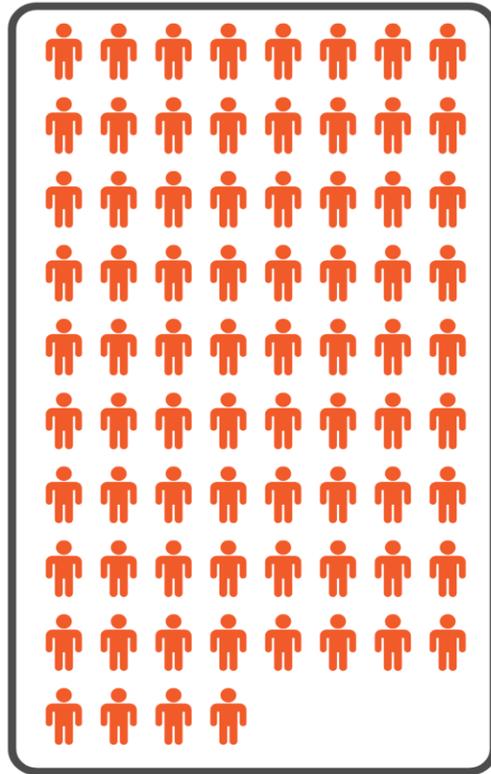
Child Impacts – Interaction Changes



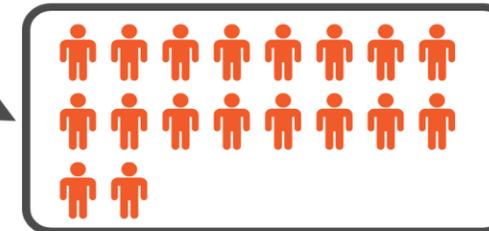
Teachers boosted interactions for all children and for **lower talk** and **bottom third** subsamples significantly.

Child Impacts – Language Isolation

Before LENA Grow:



After LENA Grow:



Survey Data

- Teacher Pre/Post
- End of Program
- Coach
- Administrator



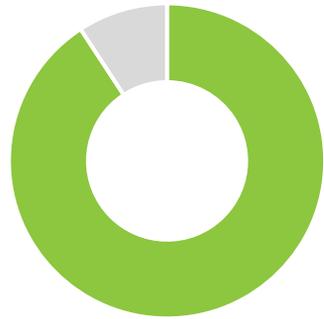
The Teacher Perception Survey (TPS) captures how educators' perceptions evolved in three domains:

- **Beliefs and actions** that support equitable language development
- **Job Satisfaction**
- **Self-Efficacy**



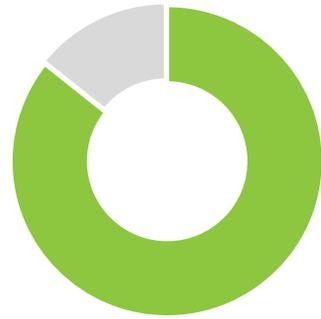
Teacher Impacts — End of Program Survey

At the end of Grow, teachers complete a survey reporting on the impact of the LENA Grow program:



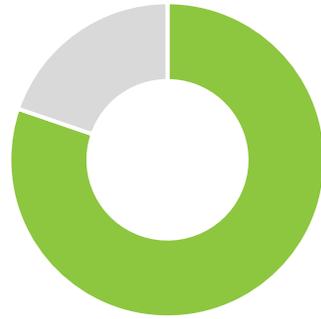
91%

would recommend the program to other teachers.



86%

feel more confident in their teaching abilities



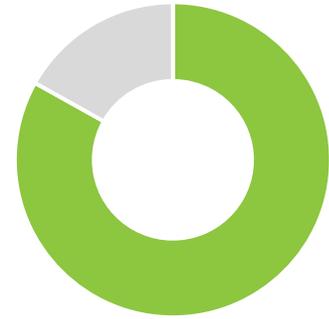
80%

increased overall job satisfaction



73%

increased communication with families



83%

saw positive changes in children's language development

Teacher Perception Questions

The TPS consists of 14 questions scored on a 1 (low) to 5 (high) scale:

Beliefs and Actions

- How much talk is there during snacks/**mealtime**?
- How often do you talk to **families** about their child's language development?
- Babies who have lots of **back-and-forth** experiences will do better in school.

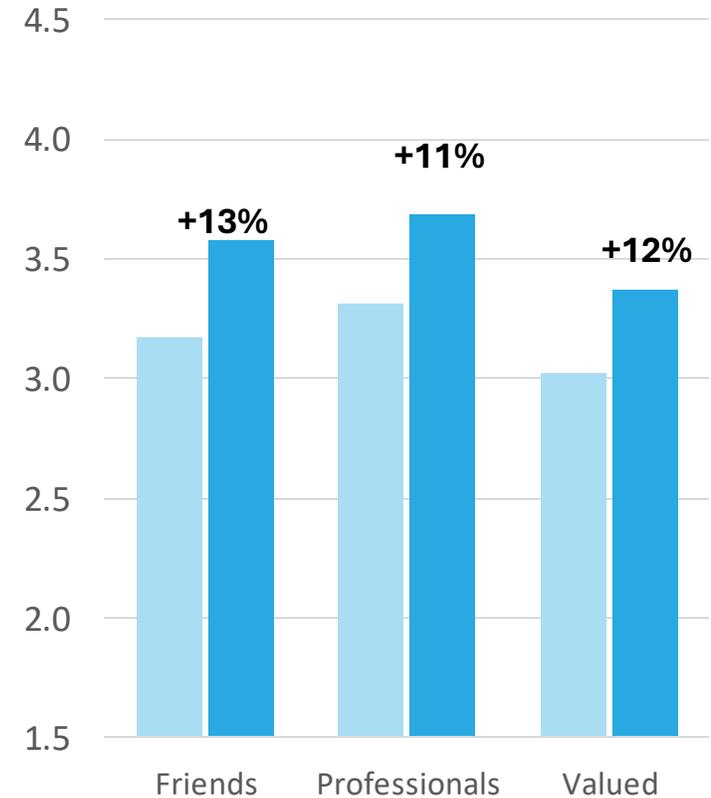


Teacher Perception Questions

The TPS consists of 14 questions scored on a 1 (low) to 5 (high) scale:

Job Satisfaction

- How often do you tell your **friends** you enjoy your job?
- I feel comfortable talking with other **professionals** about the challenges I face daily.
- I feel **valued** as an early childhood professional

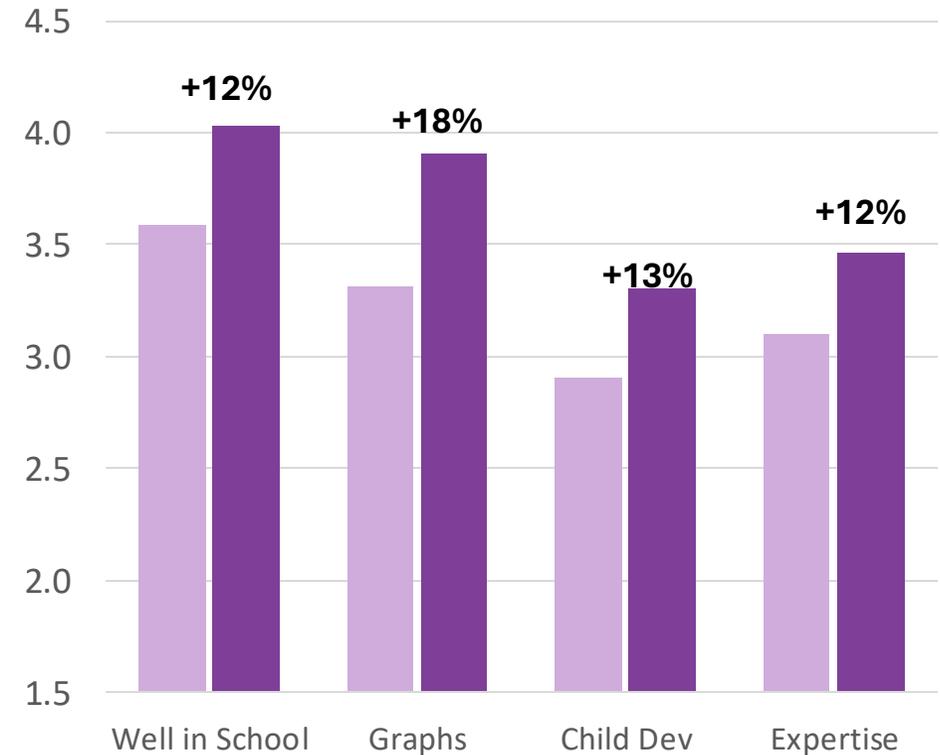


Teacher Perception Questions

The TPS consists of 14 questions scored on a 1 (low) to 5 (high) scale:

Self-Efficacy

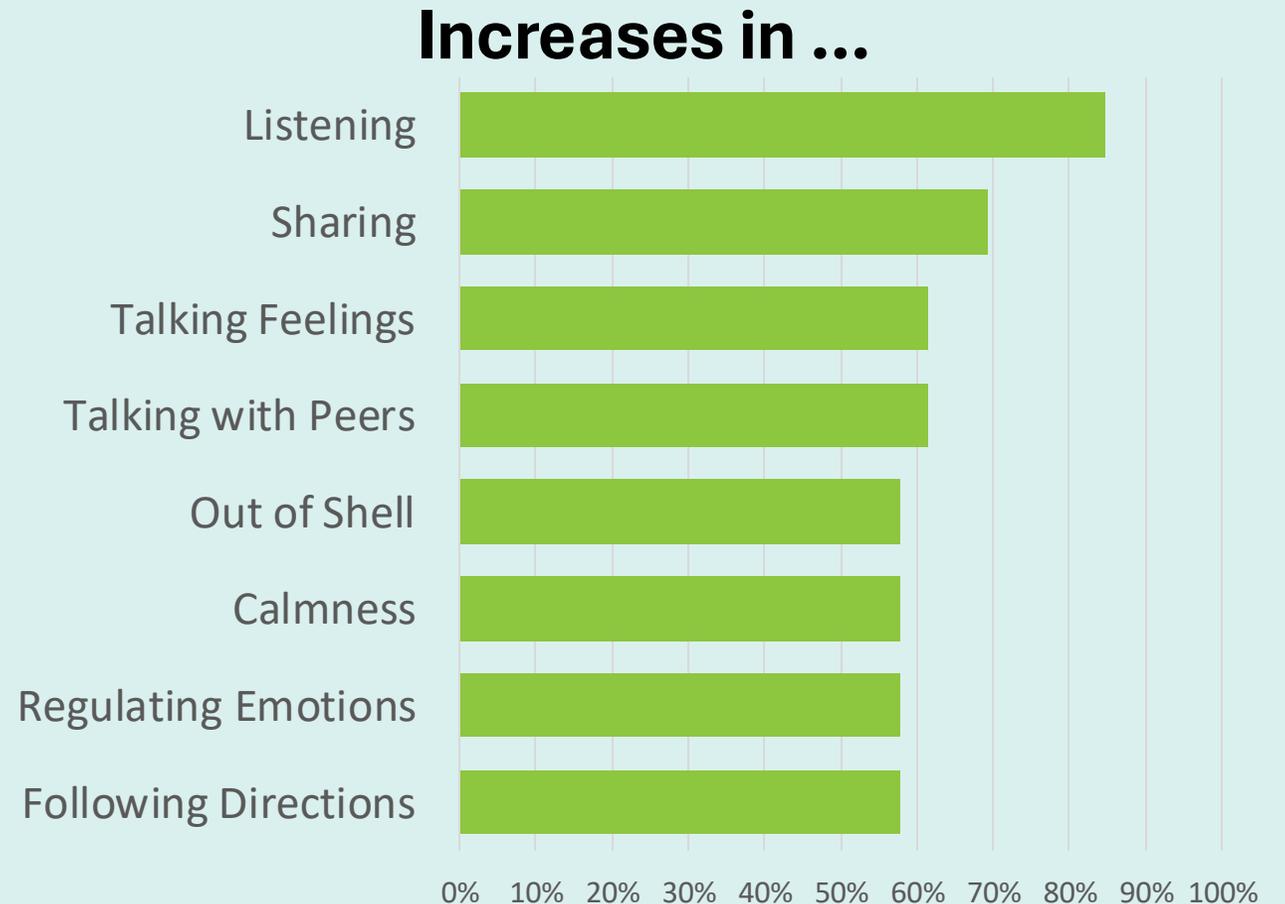
- I am confident that most of the children in my care will do **well in school**.
- I am confident in my ability to read and interpret data **graphs**.
- I know more about **child development** than other teachers/providers.
- My **expertise**, training and experience have put me on the cutting edge of the workforce.



Improving Emotional Regulation Skills

The post perception survey asked teachers about how LENA Grow may have impacted behavior and emotional regulation in their classroom.

39% of teachers indicated they noticed improvements during or after LENA Grow



Improving Emotional Regulation Skills

When teachers were asked what strategies they thought led to these changes...

81%

Increased 1:1

62%

Increased Attention

50%

Down on their Level

46%

Followed their Lead



Our Mission

Ensure every child is empowered with the essential knowledge and skills to thrive in kindergarten and beyond.

Fueled by \$200M+ in public and private investment since 2020 ELI has:



Facilitated the creation of

3,500+

high-quality child care seats statewide

Supported 60% of all early learning providers in Indiana with funding to stabilize operations and improve services



Enabled 2,000 Educators and early learning leaders to earn credentials or obtain other advanced professional development to foster deeper classroom learning



Awarded 400 community organizations grants to strengthen learning and development opportunities for young children, including through the \$60M Early Years Initiative focused on the critical years between birth and age three

Innovation Spotlight:



- Launched the first-of-its-kind **Early Learning Marketplace** to connect child care supply and demand in real time
- Created **alternative preparation pathways** to accelerate and reduce the cost of getting educators into classrooms
- Published ***Closing the Gap***, the definitive report on the state of early care and education in Indiana



EARLY YEARS INITIATIVE

Organizations promoting essential skills for infants and toddlers through early language strategies, including engaging early learning programs and families with LENA Grow and LENA Start.



EXPERT VOICES SERIES

Professional development opportunities exploring how early childhood educators can create engaging, language-rich and print-rich environments that support foundational literacy development.



ELEVATE LEARNING PROJECT

Empowering early learning programs to create stronger, more engaging classroom practices to ensure meaningful growth for children under the age of five.

INTEREST FORM OPEN – SIGN UP NOW!

- Equity in language and communication practices
- Educator awareness of quantity *and* quality of interactions with children
- Data literacy for decision making
- Internal coaching supports



- Continued LENA Grow implementation in repeat classrooms and programs
- Implementation in additional new classrooms this Fall
- Open recruitment for upcoming cohorts





United

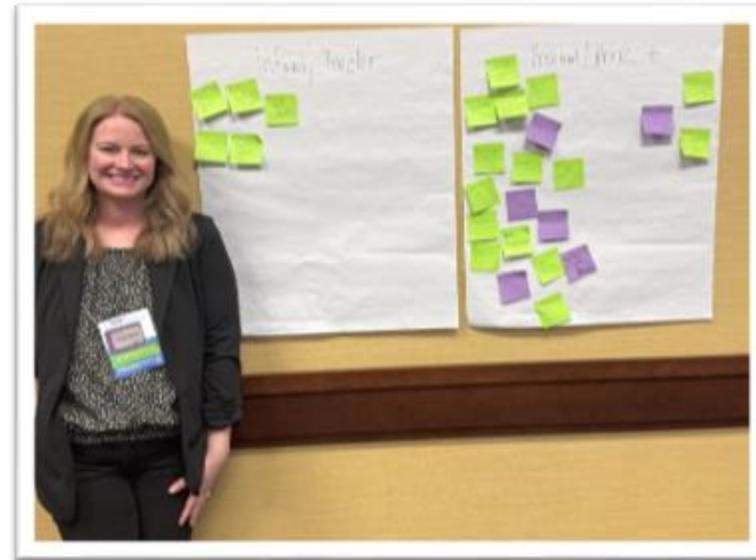
Day Care Center



Free Trainings & Workshops



- Every Interaction Counts
- Learning to Read Starts at Birth
- Coaching Through Behaviors

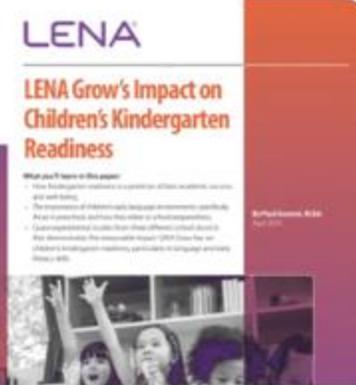


Free Resources @ LENA.org/resources



 SCAN ME

Downloadables



LENA
LENA Grow's Impact on Children's Kindergarten Readiness

White Papers

[View resources](#)



LENA
Early Talk Builds Early Literacy

Tip Sheets

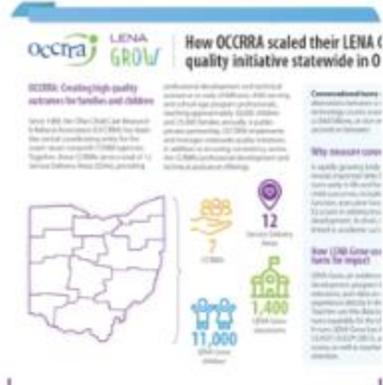
[View resources](#)



LENA
Conversation Starters for Feelings & Emotions

Advocacy Tools

[View resources](#)



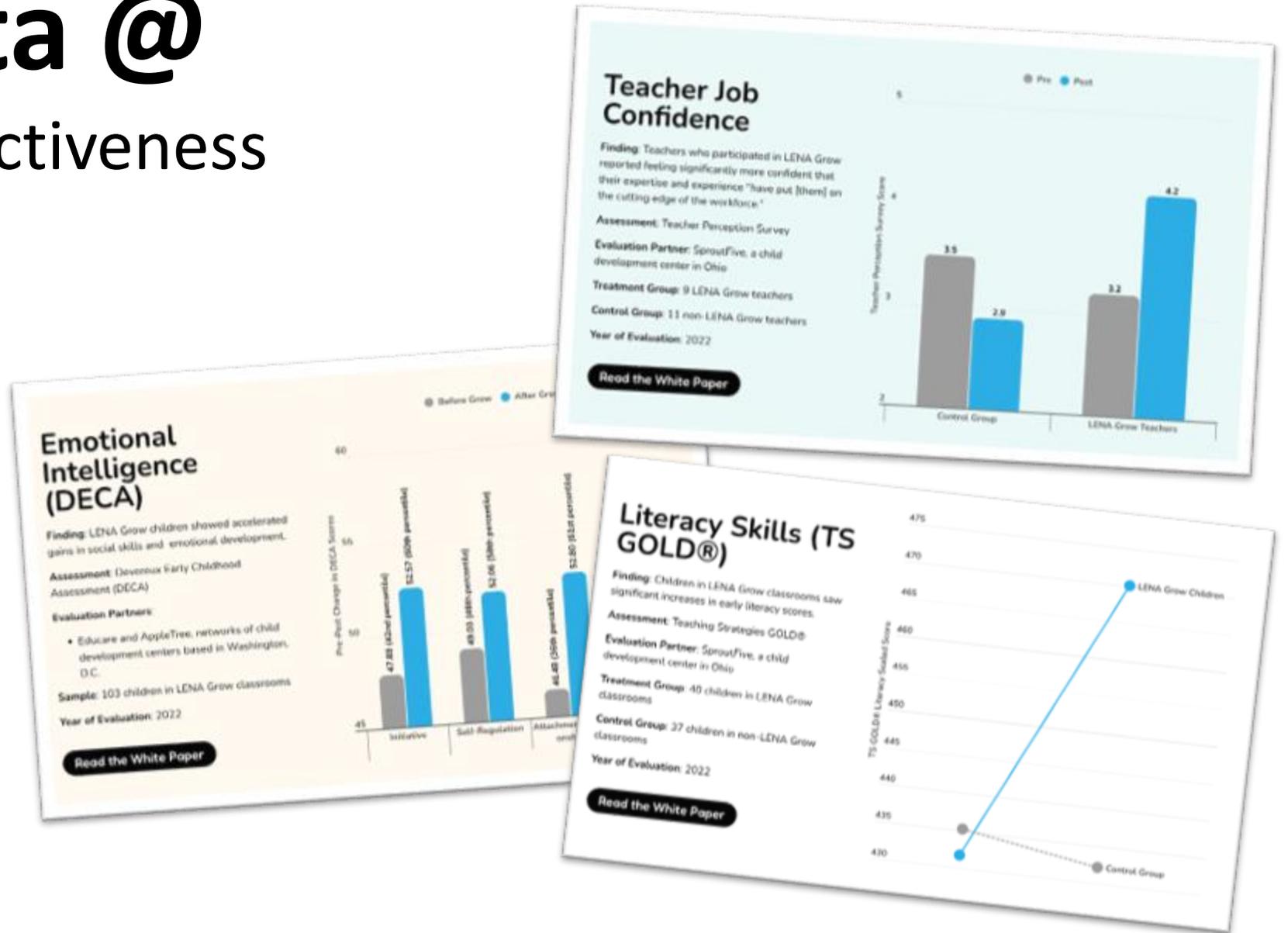
OCCRR **LENA GROW**
How OCCRR scaled their LENA quality initiative statewide in O

Case Studies

[View resources](#)

More data @

LENA.org/effectiveness



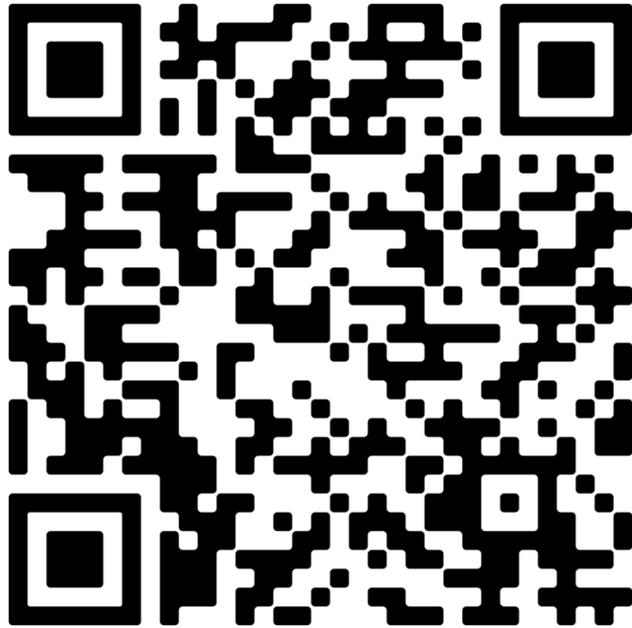
Looking Ahead!



LENA[®]

Early Learning

INDIANA



Lilly Endowment Inc.

A private foundation since 1937