



Program Impact

LENA Grow is an innovative, evidence-based professional development program designed to **help infant, toddler, and preschool educators create equitable, robust language environments.**

LENA Grow motivates educators, improves their professional outlook, gives them data-driven insights into individual children’s experiences, and aligns with a wide range of quality improvement systems and assessment tools that foreground the importance of adult-child interactions. Learn more at LENA.org/LENA-Grow.



This report is a celebration of more than **100 LENA Grow partners**, who have reached **50,000 children** and **13,000 early childhood educators** (and counting!).

Here’s what we’ll highlight:

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Making every interaction count.

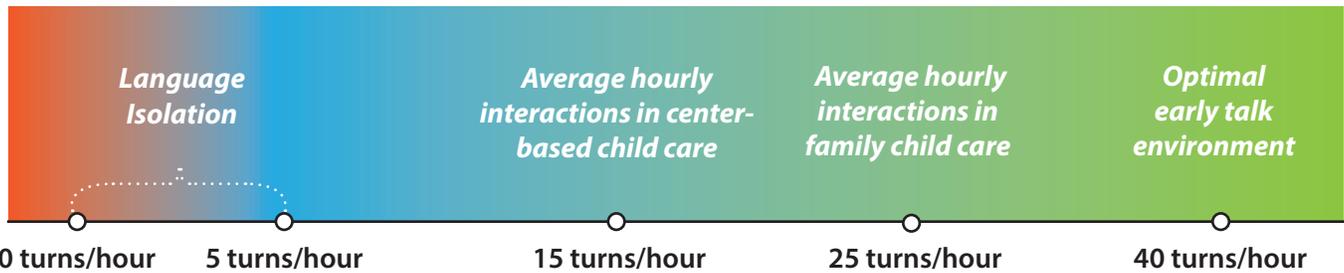


“ You can feel the connections, relationships, and language deepening as the data develops from week to week. With LENA, teachers can see this growth happening from a perspective we haven’t had before. ... I’m not sure if when LENA created this program they intended to change the culture of a program, but it did that for us. Our program’s culture has changed. ”

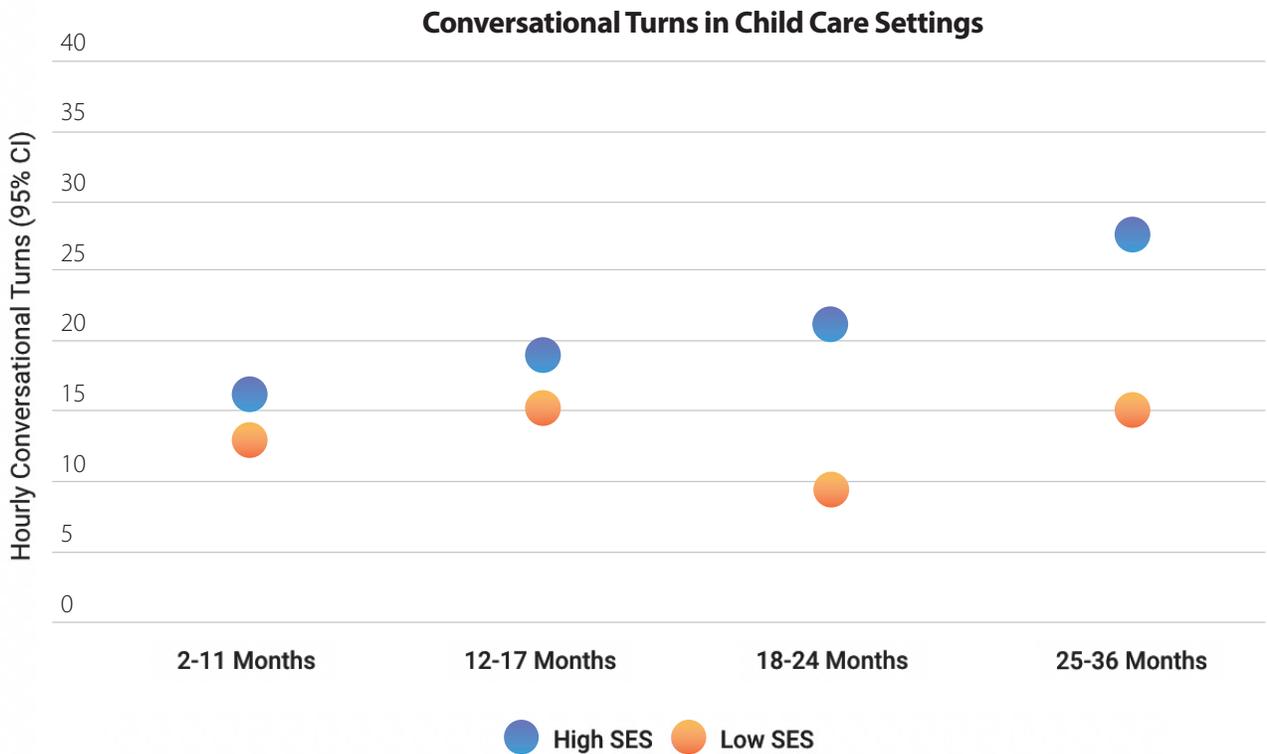
— Laura Rainey, Innovations and Literacy Coach at Mainspring Schools in Austin, Texas

The Need for LENA Grow

Approximately half of all 0-5 year olds in the U.S. attend child care. Unfortunately, language environments in child care settings are neither as responsive nor as robust as they should be. Children in child care are **four times more likely to experience total language isolation** than to experience optimal language environments. **Approximately one in five children in child care experiences language isolation**, even in classrooms where other children experience a high number of conversational turns.



Children living in low-SES neighborhoods engage in fewer conversational turns than children living in high-SES neighborhoods. Learn more at LENA.org/interaction-in-early-childhood-education.



And yet there's good reason to be hopeful. Incremental improvements in language environments can pay enormous dividends. Conversational turns support cognitive development, language skills, social-emotional skills, and early literacy skills. Learn more at LENA.org/conversational-turns.

Child Impacts

Increased Conversational Turns

Conversational turns are such simple things — just serve-and-return interactions between an adult and a child. Yet, as the data shows, children experience wide variability in how much interaction they experience.

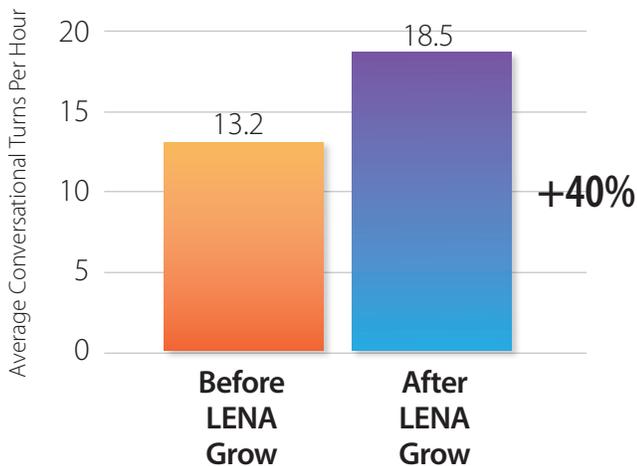
When educators participate in LENA Grow, they get access to data and resources that help them measurably increase conversational turns with every child in their care.

Children who started out experiencing less talk compared to other peers in their classroom have an **average increase of 40%**. Children who started out experiencing less talk than the national median of 15 turns per hour have an **average increase of 56%**.

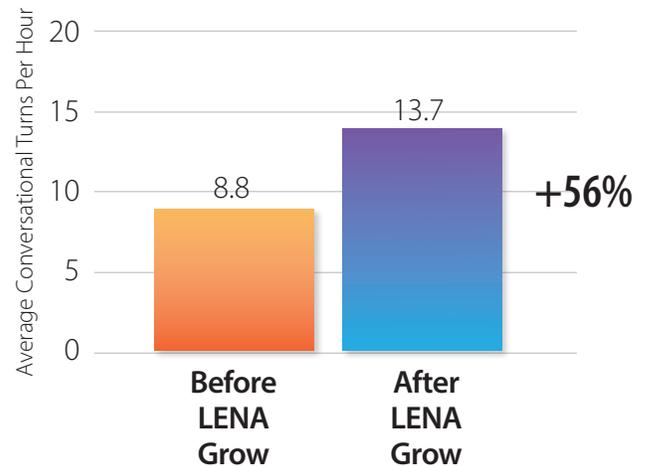


Every increase of two conversational turns per hour has a statistically significant impact up to 40 turns, and is associated with a one-point increase in Full Scale IQ 10 years down the line. Learn more at [LENA.org/Inside-Early-Talk](https://lena.org/inside-early-talk).

Children in the Bottom Third of Room



Children Below the National Median

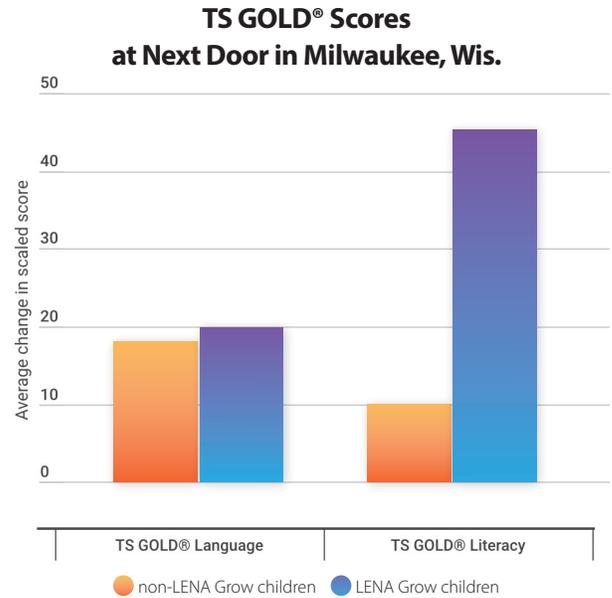
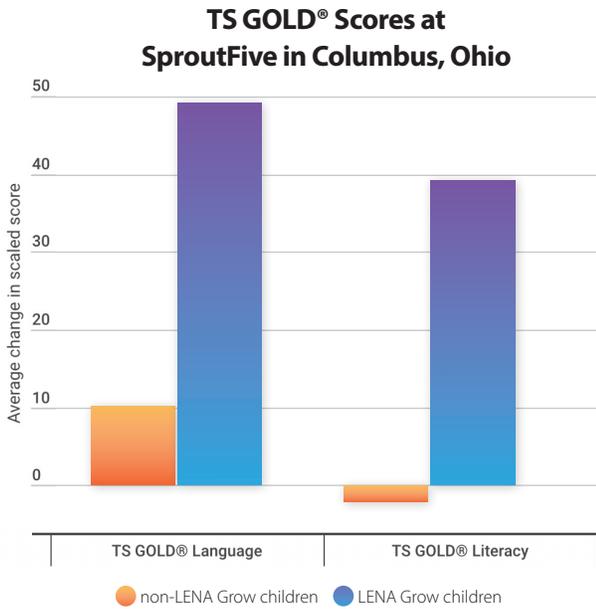


“ Even the quietest ones have opened up and are talking more. Helping them develop more words will make them feel stronger, and make them more confident in talking to a teacher or their friends. ”

— Mae Xiong, educator at Neighborhood House of Milwaukee in Milwaukee, Wis. — [Watch her story!](#)

Language and Literacy Skills

In 2022, two independent evaluations of LENA Grow compared changes between children who did and did not participate in LENA Grow in TS GOLD® scaled scores in the domains of language skills and literacy skills. [Stream the webinar!](#)



In addition, the Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County, Fla., saw significant improvements in TS GOLD® scores. **88% of LENA Grow children saw an increase in total raw language scores.** [Read more!](#)



“ I’m happy to know that they are learning. And it’s exciting. And I’m a part of it. ”

— Yolanda James, educator at the Coalition for the Homeless in Orlando, Fla. — [Watch her story!](#)

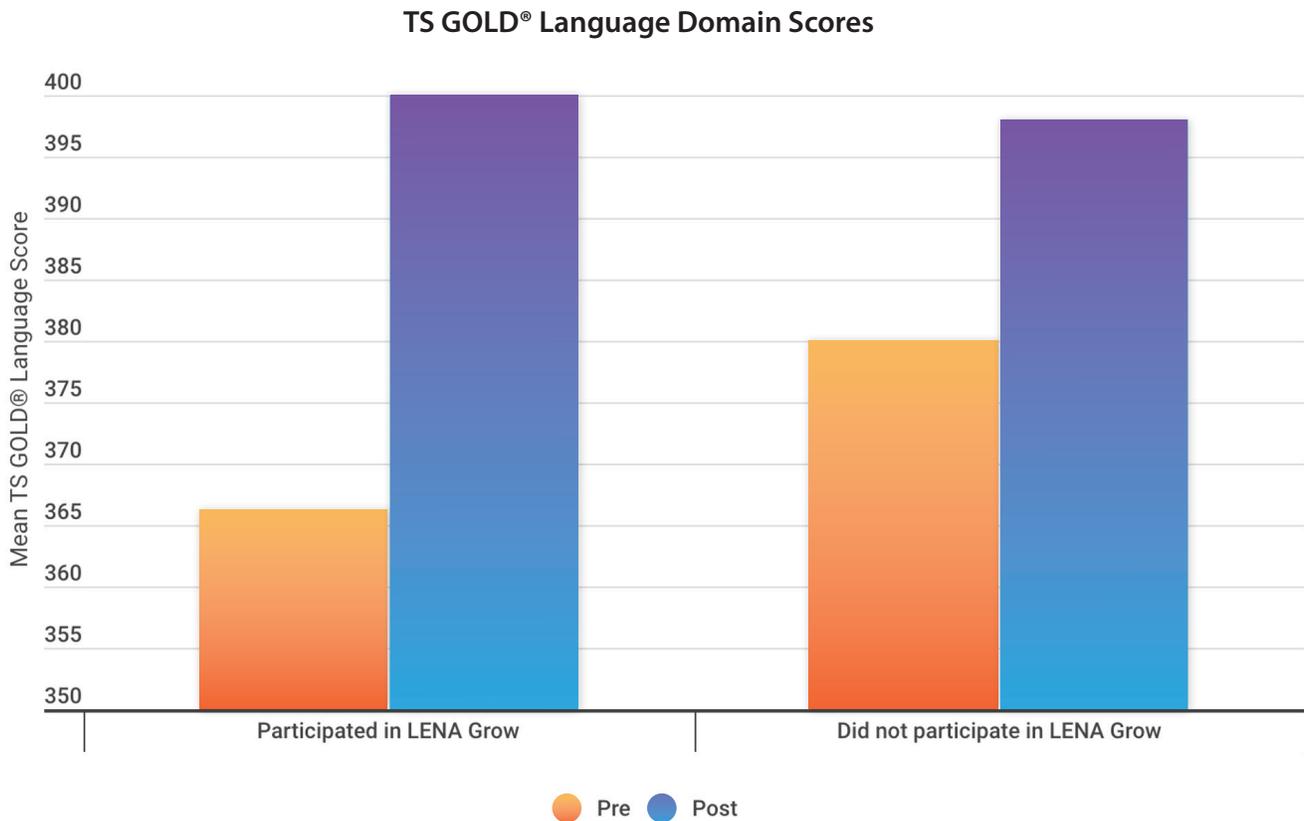


“ I’ve seen too many little ones who just say ‘I can’t, I can’t’ and they won’t try. I’ve just become more and more passionate about getting kids to try. Not to give up, not to think they can’t, just that they can. ”

— Jennifer Gillis, educator at First Presbyterian Preschool in Salem, Ohio — [Read her story!](#)

Language and Literacy Skills (cont.)

In an analysis completed in 2023, researchers compared TS GOLD® scores between 435 children who participated in LENA Grow and 393 who did not. LENA Grow children saw a 9.4% increase in Language Domain scores, compared to a 4.8% increase for children who did not participate.



Children with TS GOLD® scores below Widely Held Expectations (WHE) saw an especially positive impact from participating in LENA Grow. LENA Grow children were **twice as likely** to move out of the below-WHE category than children who did not participate in LENA Grow. [Read more!](#)

Reduced Language Isolation

LENA Grow may be effective at moving children out of language isolation, defined as experiencing fewer than five conversational turns per hour for all but one hour of the day. These are the children missing out on the benefits of conversational turns the most.

In a 2023 analysis of data from 22,455 children, 13% were experiencing language isolation before the program. After LENA Grow, **60% of those children left language isolation**. That's 1,789 children who went from experiencing almost no interaction with their teachers to regular interaction throughout the day.



Social-Emotional Growth

Children participating in LENA Grow experienced significant increases in all domains of the Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA), which measures social and emotional health and resilience. The DECA tool describes children as fitting into one of three categories: Area of Need, Typical, or Strength. **LENA Grow participants were 10 times more likely to move up a category than to regress.** This evaluation was completed in partnership with Appletree Schools and Educare D.C. [Read more!](#)

Devereux Early Childhood Assessment Percentiles



In a 2023 analysis of TS GOLD® Social-Emotional Domain scores, LENA Grow children were **twice as likely** as non-LENA Grow children to advance out of the “below Widely Held Expectations” categorization. [Read more!](#)



“ We were truly buying into this program for the kids. ... Those behaviors that sometimes caused the chaos really went away, because we’re engaged and we’re creating a family of learners in our classroom. ”

— Judy Berdan, educator at Marathon County Child Development Agency Head Start in Wausau, Wis. — [Stream the webinar!](#)

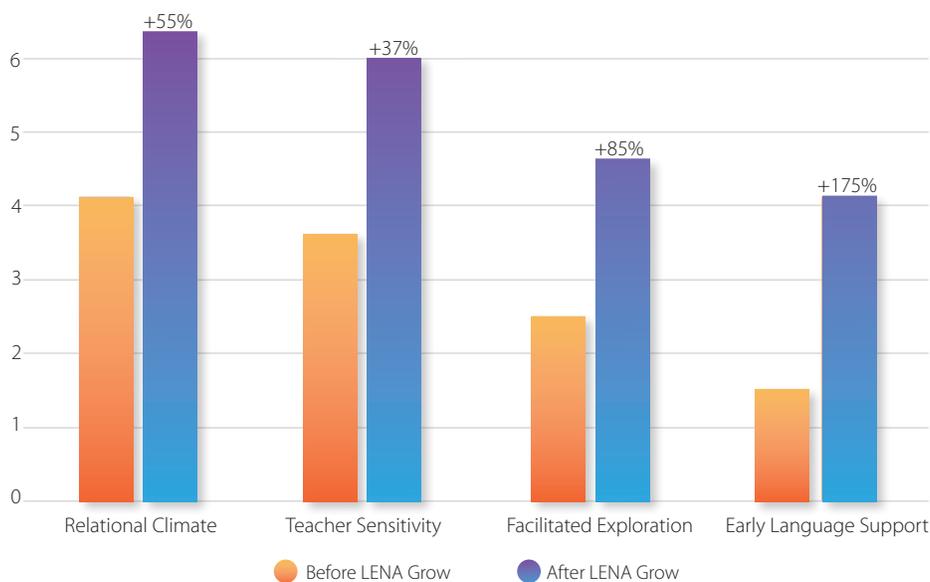
Educator Impacts

Improved Classroom Quality

Moving the needle on CLASS® scores is no easy feat. However, there's growing evidence that LENA Grow does just that.

In Florida, the Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County raised its **infant classroom** Responsive Caregiving composite scores by 80%, from 2.94 to 5.28, and its **toddler classroom** Engaged Support for Learning composite scores by 62%, from 1.73 to 2.80. [Read more!](#)

Age group: Infant
CLASS® Domain: Responsive Caregiving



Age group: Toddler
CLASS® Domain: Engaged Support for Learning



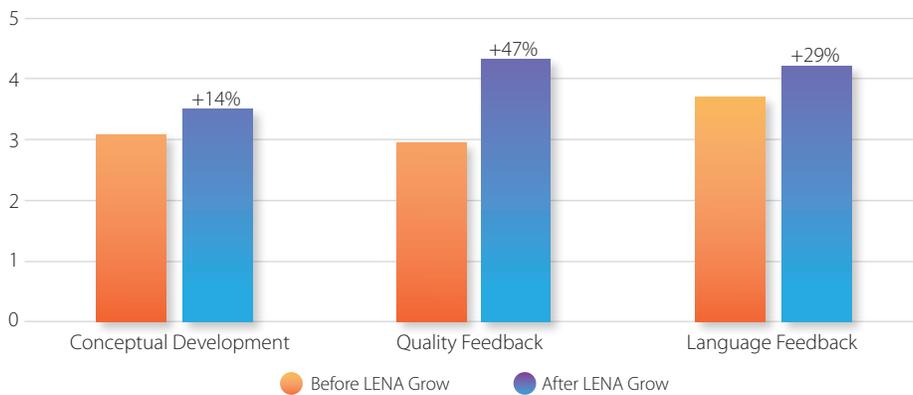
Improved Classroom Quality (cont.)

In Texas, the Fort Worth Independent School District raised its Instructional Support composite scores in pre-K classrooms by 30%, from 3.08 to 4.00. [Read more!](#)

Age group: Pre-K
CLASS® Domain: Instructional Support



Age group: Pre-K
CLASS® Domain: Instructional Support



In California, The Primary School raised its Instructional Support pre-K classrooms by 34%, from 2.89 to 3.87. [Read more!](#)



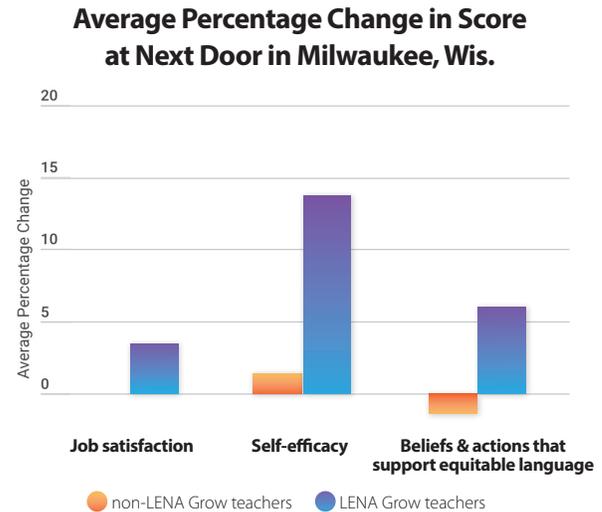
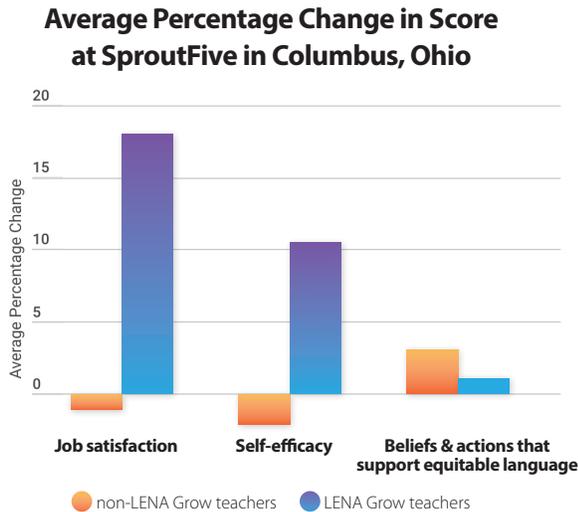
“ LENA Grow and CLASS® merge well together. It came together beautifully. ... What we achieved in our LENA scores was good practice that also helped us to elevate our CLASS® scores, especially within the domain of Instructional Support. ”

— Jessica Pablo, educator at The Primary School in East Palo Alto, Calif. [Read more!](#)

Increased Teacher Satisfaction and Confidence

The LENA Grow Teacher Perception Survey measures educators' perceptions of the early childhood profession. Teachers who participate in LENA Grow show significant **increases in self-efficacy, job satisfaction, and beliefs and actions that support equitable language development**. [Read more!](#)

Independent evaluations of LENA Grow examined pre/post Teacher Perception Survey results for participating and non-participating teachers.



Plus, according to post-program surveys:

- 95% of educators would recommend LENA Grow to other teachers.
- 89% of educators reported feeling more confident in their teaching abilities.
- 88% of educators reported increased job satisfaction.
- Only 3% of coaches say that they know of another program that's more effective at promoting professional development in educators.

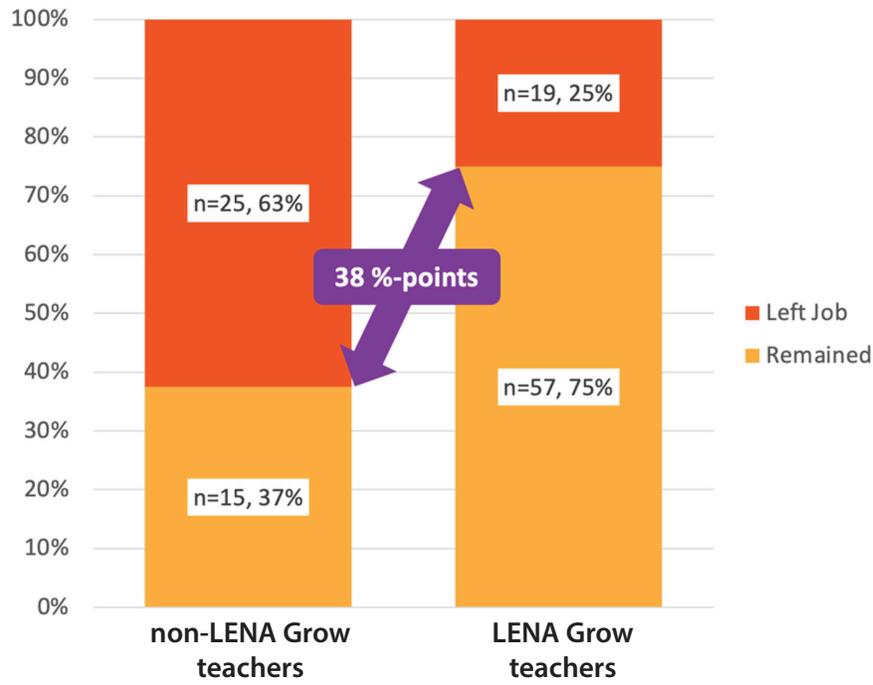


“ *To see that there is this professional development opportunity that would help potentially ease some of this stress or burden and increase job satisfaction for teachers was just really kind of a game changer for us.* **”**

— Jaclyn Dynia, Senior Director of Innovation and Research at SproutFive Center for Early Childhood Innovation in Columbus, Ohio — [Read more!](#)

Increased Teacher Retention

At Porter-Leath, a Head Start/Early Head Start grantee in Memphis, Tenn., researchers analyzed teacher retention and attrition among 116 educators: 76 who participated in LENA Grow and 40 who did not. A significantly higher percentage of educators who participated in LENA Grow remained in their positions: 75% compared to 37%. [Read more!](#)



“ Once a teacher is able to understand that this LENA program is very important not only for herself but also the children in her classroom, that’s when it was like an eye-opener. When they see the data reports, they’re excited. They want to learn more. ”

— Larissa Fullilove, instructional coach at Porter-Leath



“ Teachers consistently note on the end-of-the-cohort survey that they have a higher job satisfaction after completing [LENA Grow], which assists with our teacher retention. ”

— Dr. Kelley Corbin, Vice President of Early Childhood Services at Porter-Leath

Impact Beyond Outcomes

As this report has shown, LENA Grow's impact can be measured in positive individual outcomes for both children and teachers. Importantly, LENA data also offers unprecedented insight into broad trends across the entirety of the early childhood education landscape.

LENA can be a strategic partner in interpreting this data to:

- Better understand the current state of interaction in early childhood education.
- Advocate for policy changes to improve the whole of the early childhood education system.
- Target resources to make positive changes in children's language and literacy outcomes.



“ Sometimes just being recognized as a teacher teaching at the preschool level is all the boost we need to continue on with it, teaching the children and seeing their development from preschool all the way through college, to see their success. It's just amazing. It gives you a humble feeling that you had a part in it. That's why I still work as a teacher, why I'm still working in early childhood education. ”

— Melenau Haiola, educator at Rainbow School in Kahuku, Hawaii — [Read more!](#)

Early childhood education is an intricate web. For each strand on that web, LENA Grow is both highly adaptable and easily scalable. An array of organizations partner with LENA to bring LENA Grow to their communities:



Child Care Resource and Referral services (CCR&Rs). [Read more!](#)



Family child care providers. [Read more!](#)



Head Start and Early Head Start organizations. [Read more!](#)



School districts. [Read more!](#)



State agencies and regional organizations. [Read more!](#)



University-community partnerships. [Read more!](#)