

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.**

The program draws on LENA's widely validated "talk pedometer" technology. 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 our more than **100 LENA Grow partners**, who have reached **30,000 children** and **8,000 early childhood educators** (and counting!). Here's what we'll highlight:

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Making every interaction count.



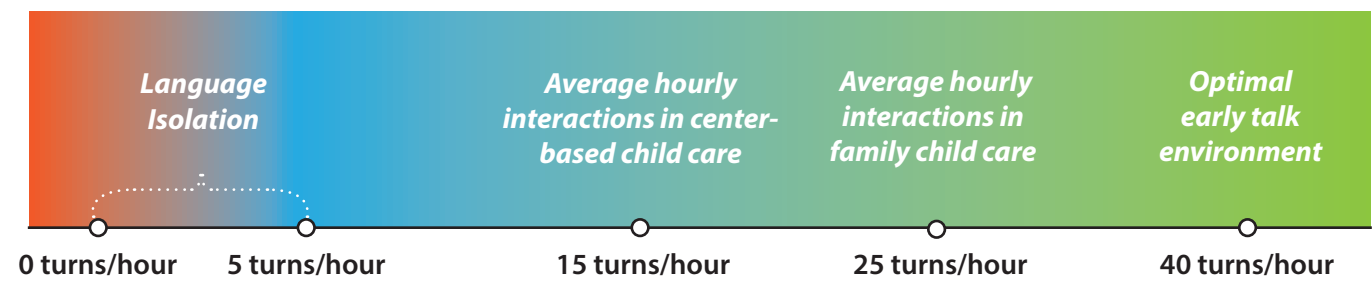
“ You can feel the connections, relationships, and language deepening as the data develops from week to week. With LENA, teachers can see this growth happening from a perspective we haven't had before. ... I'm not sure if when LENA created this program they intended to change the culture of a program,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

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

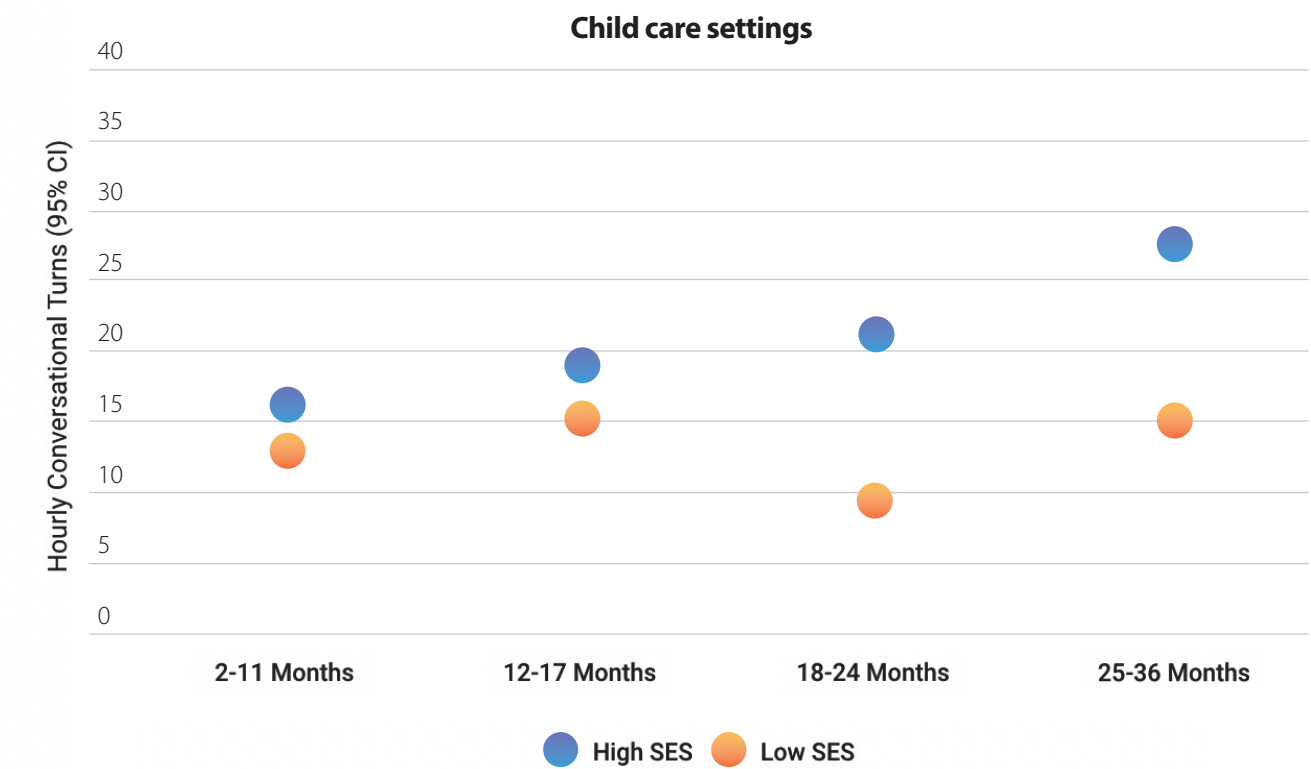
Throughout this report, look for quotes like this from teachers and coaches. Their experiences tell the story of LENA Grow's impact just as well as any chart can.

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. **One in five children in child care experience 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.



And yet there’s good reason to be hopeful. Incremental improvements in language environments can pay enormous dividends.

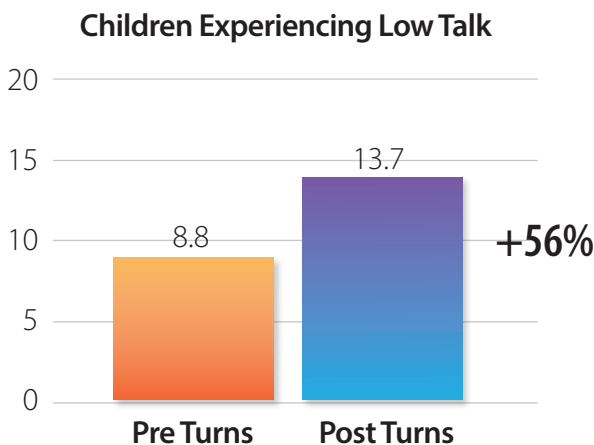
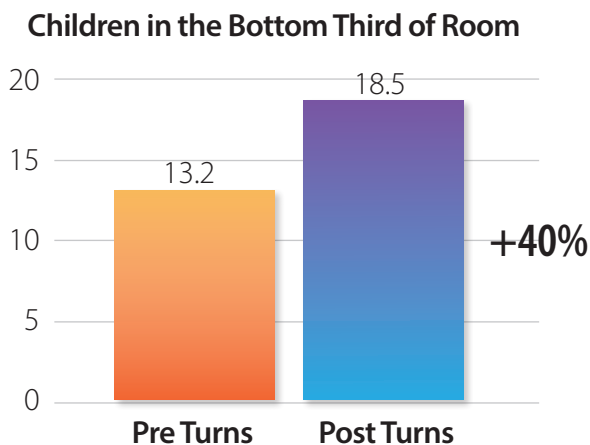
Every increase of two conversational turns per hour has a statistically significant impact up to 40 turns, and is associated with a one-point increase in Full Scale IQ 10 years down the line.

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 interaction. Some children spend large portions of their day in language isolation, even in classrooms where other children are experiencing a high number of conversational turns.

This is where the magic of LENA Grow begins: When educators participate in LENA Grow, they measurably increase conversational turns with the children in their care. On average, children who started out experiencing less talk compared to other peers in their classroom had an average increase of 40%. Children who started out experiencing less talk than the national median of 15 turns per hour had an average increase of 56%.

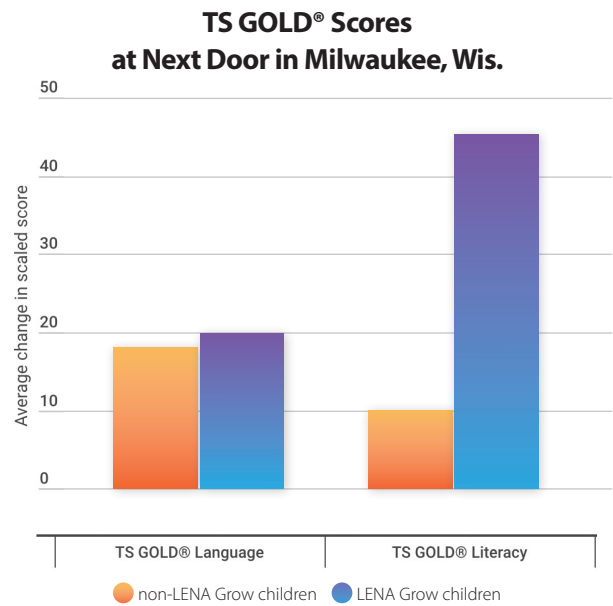
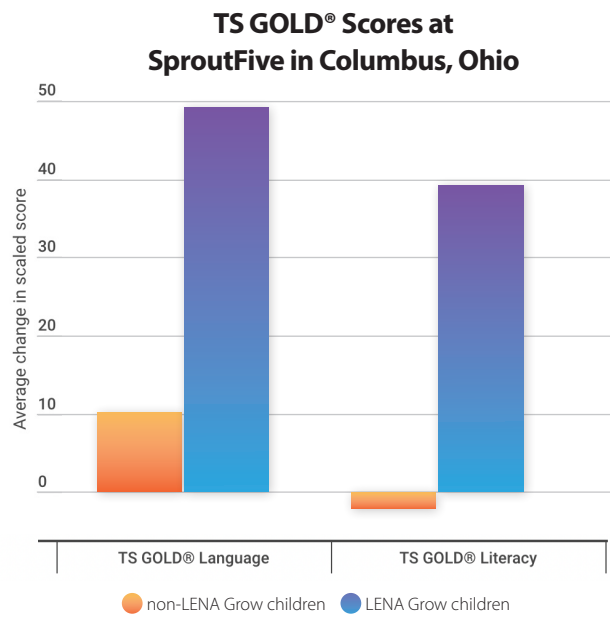


“Even the quietest ones have opened up and are talking more. Helping them develop more words will make them feel stronger, and make them more confident in talking to a teacher or their friends.”


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

Language and Literacy Skills

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



In addition, the Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County in Florida saw significant improvements in TS GOLD® scores among children who participated in LENA Grow. **88% of the 176 participating children saw an increase in total raw language scores.** [Read more!](#)

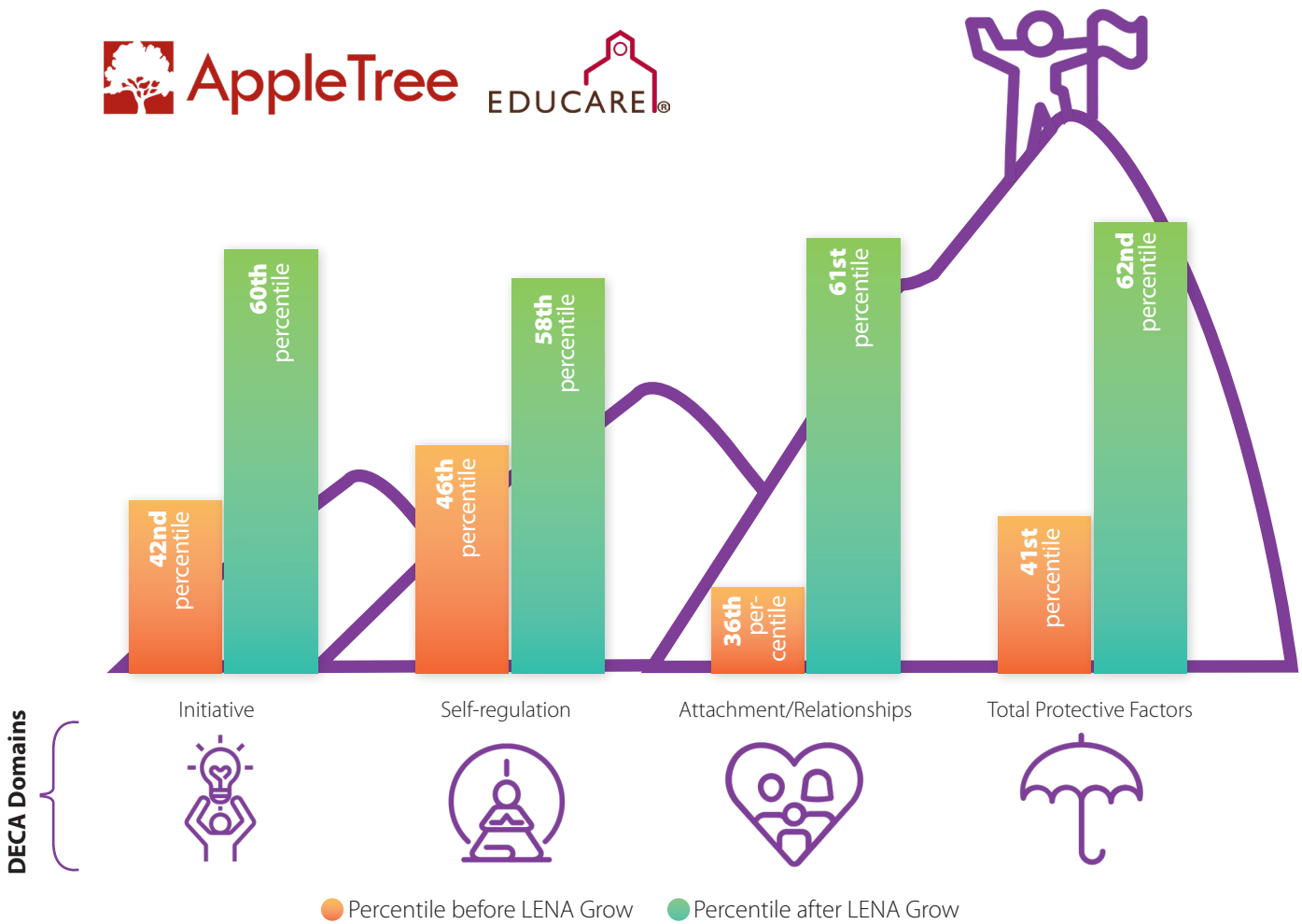



“ I’m happy to know that they are learning.
And it’s exciting. And I’m a part of it. ”

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

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!](#)





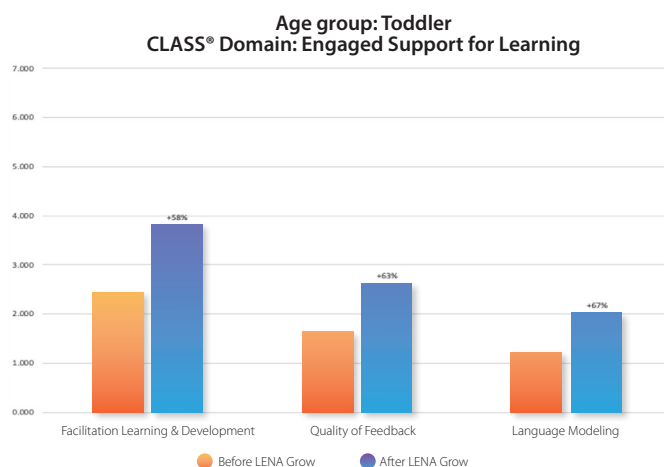
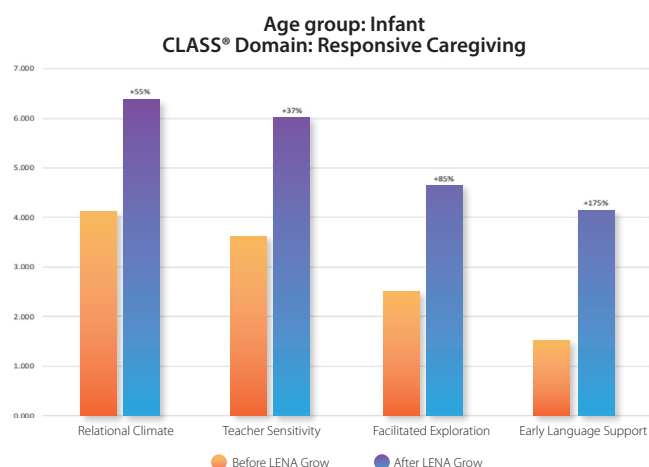
“ We were truly buying into this program for the kids... Those behaviors that sometimes caused the chaos really went away, because we’re engaged and we’re creating a family of learners in our classroom. ”

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

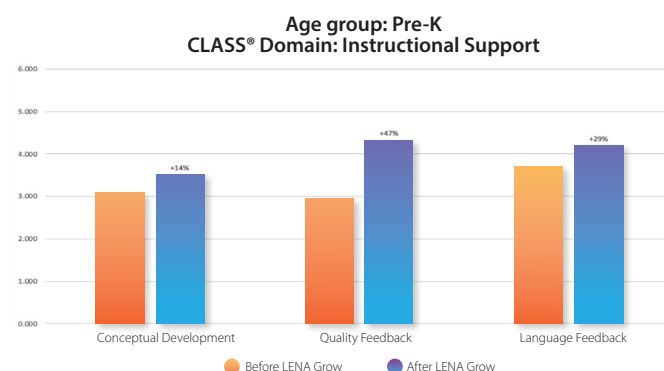
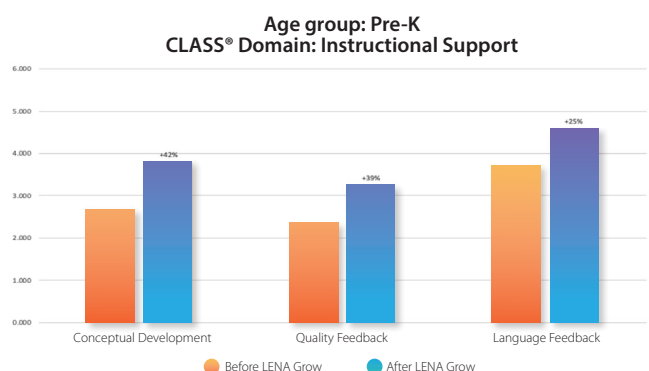
Educator Impacts

Improved Classroom Quality


Moving the needle on CLASS® scores is no easy feat. However, there's growing evidence that LENA Grow does just that — especially within the domain of instructional support, where high scores are particularly difficult to achieve.



- The Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County, Fla., 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!](#)



- The Fort Worth Independent School District, Texas, raised its Instructional Support composite scores in pre-K classrooms by 30%, from 3.08 to 4.00. [Read more!](#)
- The Primary School in Palo Alto, Calif., raised its Instructional Support pre-K classrooms by 34%, from 2.89 to 3.87. [Read more!](#)



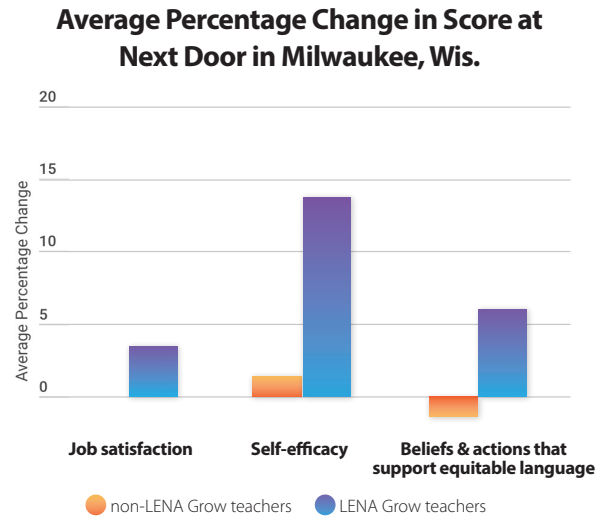
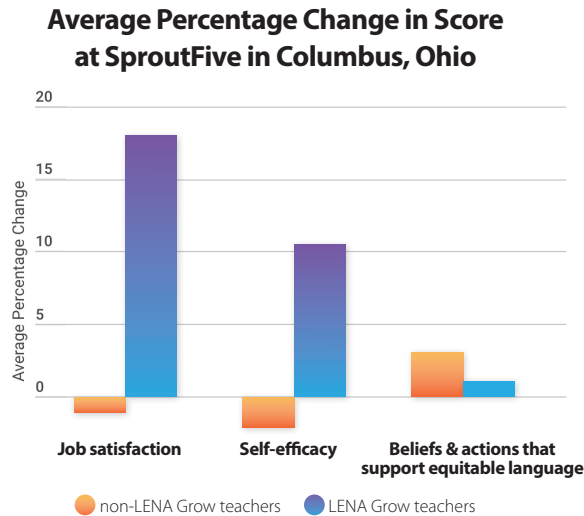
“ LENA Grow and CLASS® merge well together. It came together beautifully. ... What we achieved in our LENA scores was good practice that also helped us to elevate our CLASS® scores, especially within the domain of Instructional Support. ”

— Jessica Pablo, educator at The Primary School

Increased Teacher Satisfaction

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!](#)

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



Plus, according to post-program surveys:

- 98% of educators would recommend LENA Grow to other teachers.
- 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!](#)

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. What kinds 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.
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School
districts.
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State
agencies
and regional
organizations.
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University-
community
partnerships.
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