

How LENA Programs Map to Head Start's Early Learning Outcomes

| Central Domain         | Sub-Domain   | LENA Start   | LENA Grow   | LENA Home  |
|------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| Approaches to Learning | <b>Emotional and behavioral self-regulation</b>          | LENA Start elevates interactive talk among parents and their children, fostering responsive caregiving. The child is supported in communicating verbally and/or non-verbally about their basic needs during daily activities.  | LENA Grow increases interactive talk among teachers and children in their care (responsive caregiving), so it inherently strengthens adult-child relationships. Young children are supported in communicating verbally and/or non-verbally about their basic needs during daily routines and situations.<br><br>LENA Grow reports provide insight into each child's individual language experience during day which can guide teacher to reach those that would benefit from more attention (with associated behavioral payoff).                                    | LENA Home elevates interactive talk among parents and their children, fostering responsive caregiving. The child is supported in communicating verbally and/or non-verbally about their basic needs during daily activities.   |
|                        | <b>Cognitive self-regulation (executive functioning)</b> | LENA Start sessions are specifically designed to support families to initiate and maintain interactive talk with their child, supporting parent and child engagement during everyday routines and activities. Children that feel responded to build capacity for self-regulation and executive functioning.<br><br>There are sessions that build the family's skill in use of guided questioning and exploring what's interesting to the child, and these feed into the child's ability to tackle new skills and activities.<br><br>Shared book reading is emphasized from infant age onward, with books provided to parents at each session. This builds attachment and creativity in the engagement with and exploration of books. | LENA Grow coaching sessions are designed to support teachers to initiate and maintain interactive talk with and among young children, thereby making transitions, such as arrival and departure, less stressful and giving children opportunities to ask questions.<br><br>LENA Grow has coaching sessions that target arrival and departure, which are particularly challenging transitions during the day.<br><br>Coaching sessions include discussions of how to build more interactive talk into other daily transitions (e.g., back inside from outdoor play). | LENA Home sessions are specifically designed to support families to initiate and maintain interactive talk with their child, supporting parent and child engagement during everyday routines and activities. Children that feel responded to build capacity for self-regulation and executive functioning.<br><br>Shared book reading is emphasized from infant age onward, with books provided to parents at each session. This builds attachment and creativity in the engagement with and exploration of books. |
|                        | <b>Initiative and curiosity</b>                          | LENA Start sessions are specifically designed to support families to initiate and maintain interactive talk with their child, supporting parent and child engagement during everyday routines and activities.  | LENA's 14 Talking Tips provide teachers with ideas on how to effectively engage young children with a variety of questions, and a use of descriptive language, therefore supporting their use of questioning.   | LENA Home sessions are specifically designed to support families to initiate and maintain interactive talk with their child, supporting parent and child engagement during everyday routines and activities.   |

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| Approaches to Learning<br>(continued) | <p><b>Initiative and curiosity<br/>(continued)</b></p> | <p>There are sessions that build the family's skill in use of guided questioning and exploring what's interesting to the child. These sessions feed into the child's ability and inclination to tackle new skills and activities.</p> <p>The parent groups of LENA Start also offer great opportunities for parents to share with one another creative ideas and fun ways to boost interactions.</p>   | <p>Conversation Starters posters provided with LENA Grow include several tips and suggestions to build each child's initiative and curiosity.</p>  | <p>There are sessions that build the family's skill in use of guided questioning and exploring what's interesting to the child. These sessions feed into the child's ability and inclination to tackle new skills and activities.</p>   |
|                                       | <p><b>Creativity</b></p>                               | <p>LENA Start includes a coaching session that targets songs and rhymes to encourage families to make up songs and rhymes that are both culturally and ethnically relevant and also meet the interests of their child.</p> <p>Pretend play with children is modeled, reflected on, and discussed in one of the sessions. Other sessions focus on creative ways to boost interactive talk using descriptive language about common objects and spatial relationships. Creativity is also supported through learning to follow the child's lead and focus on what interests them as they explore and interact.</p> <p>The parent groups of LENA Start also offer great opportunities for parents to share with one another creative ideas and fun ways to boost interactions.</p> | <p>LENA Grow includes coaching sessions focused on songs and rhymes, as well as shared reading of age-appropriate books, which supports teachers in developing and incorporating activities that meet the interests of children in their classrooms.</p> <p>Conversation Starters posters provide tips and creative ideas for using LENA's 14 Talking Tips throughout the day.</p> | <p>LENA Home includes a coaching session that targets songs and rhymes, to encourage families to make up songs and rhymes that are both culturally and ethnically relevant and also meet the interests of their child.</p> <p>Pretend play with children is modeled, reflected on, and discussed in one of the sessions. Other sessions focus on creative ways to boost interactive talk using descriptive language about common objects and spatial relationships. Creativity is also supported through learning to follow the child's lead and focus on what interests them as they explore and interact.</p> |
| Social and Emotional Development      | <p><b>Relationships with adults</b></p>                | <p>LENA Start sessions are specifically designed to support families to initiate and maintain interactive talk with their child, supporting parent and child engagement during everyday routines and activities. Children that feel responded to build trusting relationships with familiar adults.</p> <p>There are sessions that build the family's skill in use of guided questioning and exploring what's interesting to the child, and these strengthen the parent-child connection and feed into the child's ability to tackle new skills and activities.</p>  | <p>LENA Grow supports interactive talk among teachers and children, thus supporting positive, responsive adult-child interactions.</p> <p>LENA's 14 Talking Tips are provided in the context of daily care routines, building a strong, positive relationship between children and adults throughout the day.</p>  | <p>LENA Home sessions are specifically designed to support families to initiate and maintain interactive talk with their child, supporting parent and child engagement during everyday routines and activities. Children that feel responded to build trusting relationships with familiar adults.</p> <p>There are sessions that build the family's skill in use of guided questioning and exploring what's interesting to the child, and these strengthen the parent-child connection and feed into the child's ability to tackle new skills and activities.</p>  |

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| Language and Literacy | <p><b>Attending and understanding</b></p> | <p>The focus of LENA Start is increased interactive talk which is known to build language skill and is a predictor of later language and vocabulary outcomes in children. Following the child's lead and doing what's interesting to the child are representative LENA's 14 Talking Tips that support these objectives.</p> <p>Receptive and expressive language skill is measured by the Snapshot tool administered at monthly intervals during the program.</p>  | <p>The focus of LENA Grow is increased interactive talk which is known to build language skill and is a predictor of later language and vocabulary outcomes in children. Following the child's lead and doing what's interesting to the child are representative LENA's 14 Talking Tips that support these objectives.</p> <p>Receptive and expressive language skill is measured by Snapshot, if chosen to be incorporated.</p>  | <p>The focus of LENA Home is increased interactive talk which is known to build language skill and is a predictor of later language and vocabulary outcomes in children. Following the child's lead and doing what's interesting to the child are representative LENA's 14 Talking Tips that support these objectives.</p> <p>Receptive and expressive language skill is measured by the Snapshot tool administered monthly during the program.</p>   |
|                       | <p><b>Communicating and speaking</b></p>  | <p>The focus of LENA Start is increased interactive talk which is known to build language skill and is a predictor of later language and vocabulary outcomes in children. Following the child's lead and doing what's interesting to the child are representative LENA's 14 Talking Tips that support these objectives.</p> <p>Receptive and expressive language skill is measured by the Snapshot tool administered at monthly intervals during the program. Building these skills is supported and measured as the core focus of every program using LENA's objective feedback reports that provide insight into "serve and return" interactions, emphasizing the child as an interactive partner in communication.</p>                                | <p>The focus of LENA Grow is increased interactive talk which is known to build language skill and is a predictor of later language and vocabulary outcomes in children. Following the child's lead and doing what's interesting to the child are representative LENA's 14 Talking Tips that support these objectives.</p> <p>Receptive and expressive language skill is measured by the Snapshot tool administered at monthly intervals during the program, if chosen to be incorporated.</p>  | <p>The focus of LENA Home is increased interactive talk which is known to build language skill and is a predictor of later language and vocabulary outcomes in children. Following the child's lead and doing what's interesting to the child are representative LENA's 14 Talking Tips that support these objectives.</p> <p>Receptive and expressive language skill is measured by the Snapshot tool administered monthly during the program. Building these skills is supported and measured as the core focus of every program using LENA's objective feedback reports that provide insight into "serve and return" interactions, emphasizing the child as an interactive partner in communication.</p>   |
|                       | <p><b>Vocabulary</b></p>                  | <p>The focus of LENA Start is increased interactive talk which is known to build language skill and is a predictor of later language and vocabulary outcomes in children.</p> <p>LENA's 14 Talking Tips practice videos, goal setting, and associated discussions provide opportunities for families to strategize and plan for additional ways of increasing interactive talk during everyday activities. These skills are further developed through the focus on recasting, an active ingredient of LENA's 14 Talking Tips, which helps parents model language complexity and descriptive words when interacting with their child.</p> <p>LENA's objective feedback reports provide insight into a child's language experience throughout the day.</p> | <p>The focus of LENA Grow is increased interactive talk which is known to build language skill and is a predictor of later language and vocabulary outcomes in children.</p> <p>LENA's 14 Talking Tips practice videos, goal setting, and associated discussions provide opportunities for teachers to strategize and plan for additional ways of increasing interactive talk during everyday classroom activities. These skills are further developed through the focus on recasting, an active ingredient of LENA's 14 Talking Tips, which helps teachers model language complexity and descriptive words when interacting with the children in their classroom.</p> <p>LENA's objective feedback reports provide insight from classroom down to child level, providing insights into individual child language experience through the day.</p> | <p>The focus of LENA Home is increased interactive talk which is known to build language skill and is a predictor of later language and vocabulary outcomes in children.</p> <p>LENA's 14 Talking Tips practice videos, goal setting, and associated discussions provide opportunities for families to strategize and plan for additional ways of increasing interactive talk during everyday activities. These skills are further developed through the focus on recasting, an active ingredient of LENA's 14 Talking Tips, which helps parents model language complexity and descriptive words when interacting with their child.</p> <p>LENA's objective feedback reports provide insight into a child's language experience throughout the day.</p> |

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| Language and Literacy<br>(continued) | <b>Vocabulary<br/>(continued)</b>                     | Receptive and expressive language skill is measured by the Developmental Snapshot administered at monthly intervals during the program. After completion of LENA Start, parents complete follow-up Snapshots via text link at 6 month intervals (through age 3).  | Receptive and expressive language skill is measured by the Developmental Snapshot, if chosen to be incorporated.   | Receptive and expressive language skill is measured by the Developmental Snapshot administered at monthly intervals during the program.   |
|                                      | <b>Emergent literacy</b>                              | <p>LENA Start includes a session that specifically targets the use of songs and rhymes to support increased conversational turns between families and their child.</p> <p>LENA's 14 Talking Tips practice videos, goal setting, and associated discussions provide opportunities for families to strategize, and plan for, additional ways of increasing interactive talk throughout everyday activities.</p>   | <p>LENA Grow includes a coaching session that specifically targets the use of songs and rhymes to support increased conversational turns among teachers and young children.</p> <p>LENA Grow emphasizes shared reading as a core activity well suited to boosting interactive talk and responsive caregiving.</p>  | <p>LENA Home includes a session that specifically targets the use of songs and rhymes to support increased conversational turns between families and their child.</p> <p>Shared book reading is emphasized from infant age onward, with books provided to parents at each session. This builds attachment and creativity in the engagement with and exploration of books.</p> |
| Cognition                            | <b>Emergent mathematical thinking</b>                 | <p>Within several LENA Start sessions, including the Language of Food, Math Talk, and Out and About, parents discuss strategies for embedding these mathematical concepts into everyday conversations.</p> <p>The parent groups of LENA Start also offer great opportunities for parents to share with one another creative ideas and fun ways to integrate spatial and mathematical concepts.</p>  | LENA Grow Coaching Sessions address mealtimes, indoor and outdoor play, and associated opportunities to embed early math, spatial, and sorting concepts into everyday interactive talk.  | Within several LENA Home sessions, including Mealtimes and Play Time, parents discuss strategies for embedding these spatial relationships and mathematical concepts into everyday conversations.   |
|                                      | <b>Imitation and symbolic representation and play</b> | <p>LENA Start sessions strengthen parent's abilities to actively use their language, gestures and actions to model these component to their children.</p> <p>LENA Start include a session targeting playtime in which parents discuss tools and ideas to foster interactive talk during a range of play scenarios.</p> <p>The parent groups of LENA Start also offer great opportunities for parents to share with one another creative ideas and fun ways to boost interactions during playtime.</p> | <p>LENA Grow coaching sessions strengthen teachers' abilities to actively use their language, gestures, and everyday objects to build creative opportunities for more interactive talk.</p> <p>LENA Grow has coaching sessions focused on indoor and outdoor play in which teachers are given tools to foster interactive talk during a range of indoor and outdoor play scenarios. As well, there is a focus on creative ways of increasing interactive talk during mealtimes and other daily routines.</p> | <p>LENA Home sessions strengthen parent's abilities to actively use their language, gestures and actions to model these components to their children.</p> <p>LENA Home includes a session targeting playtime in which parents discuss tools and ideas to foster interactive talk during a range of play scenarios.</p>  |