

Fidelity Overview

There are a number of program elements built into LENA Start that have proven crucial to family success, continued engagement, and growth. The following are the minimum, highly recommended criteria for implementing with fidelity throughout the 10-week program.

Minimum Fidelity Criteria and Best Practices

- The lead coordinator completes all LENA-required trainings prior to delivering Session 1 content to families.
- The lead coordinator is fluent in the group's designated language (either English or Spanish).
- Participating caregivers are functionally fluent in the group's designated language (either English or Spanish).
- Children meet the age requirements laid out in the LENA Start Guidelines.
- Regular progress updates take place between the lead coordinator and LENA Support staff (every one to two weeks first cohorts with decreased frequency for more established implementations).

Delivery of Sessions

- Sessions are scheduled no more than 14 days apart to keep families engaged.
- All session checklists (found in LENA Online) are followed.
- Slides, videos, and content of the sessions are delivered as designed, either virtually or in-person.
- Every family attends or makes up Sessions 1-4 and at least three of the remaining sessions.
- Families are given shared reading books weekly and receive texts asking them to report reading minutes.
- The last session includes a planned celebration where participants that have met graduation requirements receive certificates.

LENA Days and Reports

- Families complete one LENA Day between each LENA Start session (any invalid recordings or errors are discussed and resolved with participants ASAP).
- LENA reports are given to families at each session (beginning in week 3) and stars are awarded as earned (beginning in week 4).
- LENA Devices are connected for data offloading and charging each week. Cloud-based processing is then completed within 24 hours.



Snapshot/Parent Survey Administration

- Parent Surveys are completed by the same caregiver at the first and final sessions of the program.
- Snapshots are completed by the same caregiver at Sessions 1, 5, and 9.

In addition to minimum fidelity requirements, the following are strongly recommended:

- If sessions are held in person, child care is provided on site so that participating parents and caregivers can focus on the content and establish relationships with other participants.
- Incentives are utilized to support parent participation, celebrate performance, and encourage future LENA Start parent recruitment.