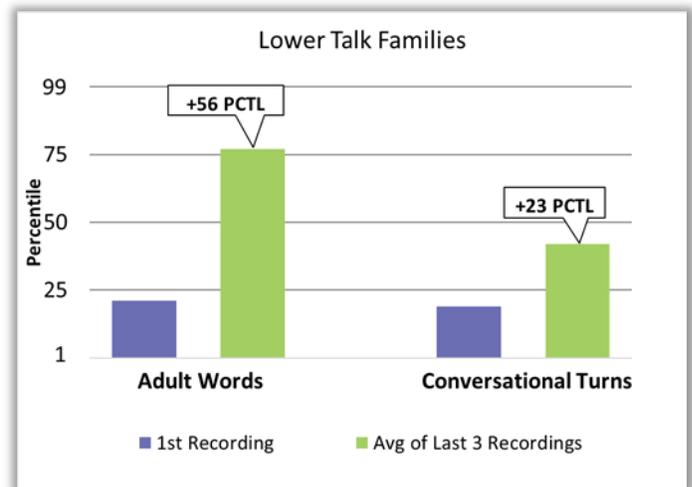
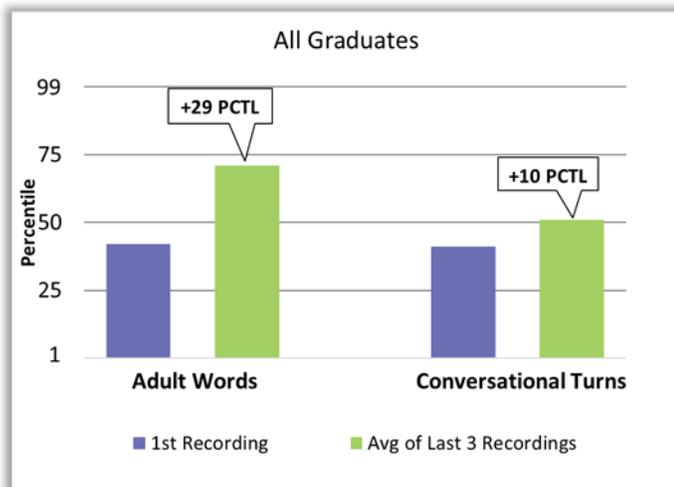


During a baby's first three years, talk is the biggest single factor driving brain growth and kindergarten readiness. LENA Start is a parent education program to help prevent children's achievement gaps by improving interactive talk during this critical window. Structured small-group parent sessions combine LENA System™ feedback with simple, practical techniques to increase verbal interactions with their babies.

107 participating families 85% graduation rate 23 minutes read per day

Evidence of Significant Adult Behavior Change: Adult Words & Conversational Turns

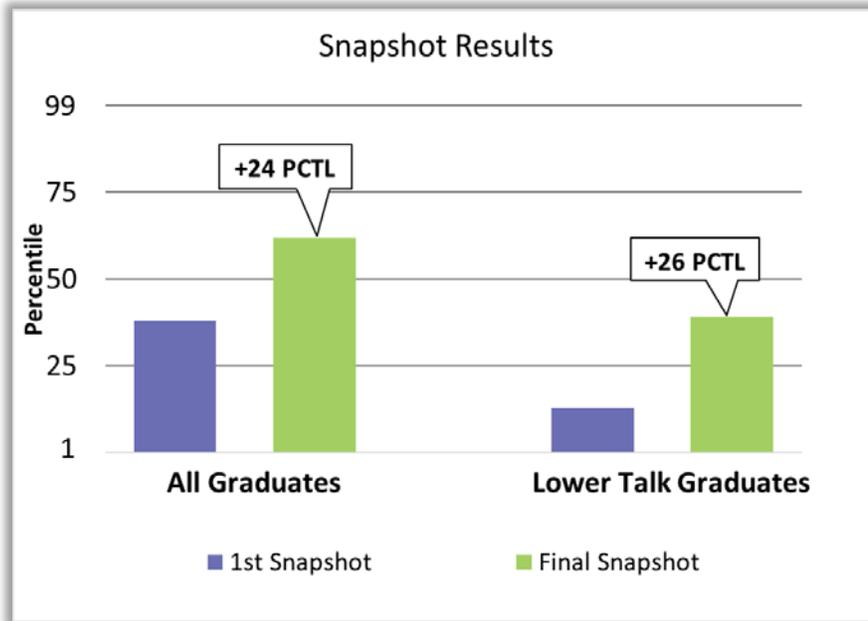


Relative to where they started (blue bars), graduates showed significant increases (green bars) in adult words and conversational turns. Families were considered part of the "lower talk group" if either words or turns on the first recording fell below the 50th percentile (right panel). These families had greater gains in adult words. The fact that the observed change in adult words is larger than the observed change in conversational turns is not surprising and is consistent with results observed in all other LENA Start sites. The reason for this is that it tends to be easier for parents to initially boost the adult word count. Increasing turns takes higher skill and more effort and so those changes tend to lag the changes in word count.

Shared book reading is emphasized in the program, and **parents reported reading over two times as much with their children** at graduation compared with the start of the program.

Evidence of Accelerated Child Language Development

The **Snapshot** is a parent questionnaire that measures a child's receptive and expressive language development. Results below compare Snapshot scores after the completion of LENA Start and show that **children whose parents participated in the program are gaining nearly 2 and a half months of developmental skill every month**. Rather than falling further behind, the children are actually catching up and surpassing their peers! LENA Start is motivating parents to talk more and giving them the tools to close the gap.



Improved Parent Perceptions & Interactive Behaviors

84 percent of families who completed the pre and post Parent Survey show gains in total scores, indicating positive influences on parent perceptions and interactive behaviors in a number of domains. The percentage of families that reported positive change in each of the domains is detailed below.

