



2019 Mid-Year Impact Report

LENA Grow is an experiential professional development program designed to measure and improve the quality of early childhood programs. It couples innovative “talk pedometer” technology with weekly coaching sessions to increase teacher-child interaction in the classroom. By measuring and providing targeted feedback on these interactions, which are one of the most predictive elements of child outcomes, LENA Grow helps teachers gain the skills and professional recognition to improve overall classroom quality in a simple, scalable format.



Interaction

Children starting out below average that participated in LENA Grow experienced a large, statistically significant **34% increase** in conversational turns by the end of the program.



Job satisfaction

- **93% of teachers** report increased confidence in their teaching abilities.
- **87% of teachers** report increased job satisfaction.

Equity

Children who were experiencing the least amount of talk saw even greater gains. Those who began in the bottom third of the lowest talk rooms saw **56% growth** in interactions.



Scalability

To date, LENA Grow has served:

- **1,000+ teachers**
- **4,800+ children**
- **32 initiatives**
- **16 states**



Moving the needle on classroom quality

LENA Grow combines key elements to impact classroom quality.

As teachers increase interaction and are able to individualize their communication for each child, they build responsive caregiving skills, which lead to measurable increases in scores on independent assessments of classroom quality.

Data (currently available for programs in three states) show that CLASS quality scores increase by about a point on average across nearly all domains and dimensions of the tool after a classroom completes LENA Grow. These quality gains are especially strong for Infant and Toddler rooms (data from Florida and Georgia), but have also been verified in PK3 rooms (Texas).

LENA Grow is particularly impactful for those historically lowest scoring domains: 'responsive caregiving' (infants) and 'engaged support for learning' (toddlers).



What are participants saying about LENA Grow?



Am I giving each child the opportunity that they deserve daily? We didn't know before because we didn't have a report. Participating in LENA Grow was a great opportunity to see ourselves as teachers and make sure that each child is getting what they deserve.

— Lyana Vázquez, owner and director of Best Memories Academy in Orlando, Florida



This program was way more hands-on than other professional development programs we've done. Usually PD is just someone talking to us and telling us things that they know. But with LENA Grow, the teachers got to be more a part of it; we got to be really involved.

— Ashley Ramos, Early Head Start Teacher at Sequatchie Valley Head Start in Tennessee



Because the LENA Grow reports provided instant results that teachers could see, they gained more of an understanding of some of the CLASS dimensions and indicators. So teachers gained a better understanding of what a high-quality, interactive classroom looks like.

— Lisa Austin, Early Childhood Specialist at Fort Worth Children's Partnership

