

REACH...



Respect parent roles and their diversity

Engagement, not just involvement

All families want their children to be successful so *Ask* what they need

Curriculum of the home

Help at home with knowledge and skills

Strategy Name: Project Early Access to Success in Education (EASE)

Summary of Strategy: Project EASE was designed to increase the frequency and quality of language interactions through book-centered activities and to give parents information about and opportunities for engagement in their children's developing literacy abilities. The parents are asked to commit to 5 monthly parent education sessions with follow-up weekly parent-child activities. In addition to the parent-child activities, parents are invited to participate in classroom activities after the parent sessions. A year-long intervention project was carried out with 248 kindergarten students, comprised of 71 students in a control group and 177 students whose parents participated in the experimental Project EASE program. Statistical tests showed a significant increase in language skills for kindergarten children who participated in Project EASE compared to a control group who were not exposed to the intervention. Further, these increases were most pronounced for children at the greatest risk for having problems with reading, i.e., those children at the bottom of their class at the beginning of the school year.

REACH Links: *Engagement, not just involvement* and *Help at home with knowledge and skills*.

Scientifically Based Research Level: Level 4 – Strong Evidence

Website Links: <http://gseweb.harvard.edu/~pild/projectease.htm>

Target Audience of Strategy: Parents of kindergarten students

Training and Follow-up Support for Implementation: A trained educator leads the coaching sessions with parents. Coaching sessions are held monthly and consist of a parent education session, parents observing their children participating in activities, and then parents engaging in one-on-one activities with their child. Afterwards, classroom teachers send home sets of structured activities for parents to do with their children.

Role of the Educator in Implementation: Teachers must send home a set of structured activities for parents to do with their children on a regular basis. Teachers must also be prepared for parents to visit the classrooms after EASE sessions.