



Independent Evaluation Summary

Early literacy for lifelong achievement

Overview

Raising A Reader MA aims to give every child an equal opportunity for achievement by engaging parents from high need communities in a routine of daily book sharing with their children ages birth through five. An affiliate of a national organization, the early literacy change model used by Raising A Reader MA is proven to impact school readiness, academic performance and lifetime achievement for children.

35% of children enter kindergarten unprepared to learn, according to the *Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching*. Raising A Reader MA directly addresses this need, **annually working with more than 8,000**

children, their families and the early education and care system in strategically selected, high risk communities. Our service model involves three components:

1. Our signature red bag rotation program, which puts high quality, developmentally- and culturally appropriate books in the hands of families and early education and care centers
2. Delivery of an evidence-based, family engagement training series that teaches parents dialogic reading skills so they can read and share stories at home in a way that builds their children's vocabulary, critical thinking skills, executive function, oral language development and other pre-literacy skills
3. Training and support for early education and care providers in the development of children's pre-literacy skills through storytelling, book sharing, and related activities.



"Ten years of evidence shows that Raising A Reader works; and for ten years we have refined and updated our program model to increase the positive impact on the lives of children and families."

-Donna DiFillippo, Executive Director, Raising A Reader MA

Gold Standard Study Shows Raising A Reader Affects 5 Key Child Outcomes

In 2010, a partnership between the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the University of Texas Health Sciences Center completed a four-year, randomly controlled evaluation of the effectiveness of the three-part Raising A Reader program model. Results indicate that this model has **statistically significant effects on five key drivers of student lifetime achievement**: vocabulary, grammar, phonological awareness, letter knowledge, and memory for language skills of pre-kindergartners.

Raising A Reader Drives Parent Engagement and Child Outcomes

According to 20 independently conducted program evaluations and/or standardized educational assessments, the Raising A Reader MA model impacts:

Parent Engagement

- Parents engaged in Raising A Reader experienced an **82% increase in knowledge about the importance of building literacy skills** from birth (Organizational Research Services, 2008).
- Raising A Reader participation was associated with a **greater than two-fold increase in the proportion of English Learner parents who read to their children** most or all days (25.4% to 62.9%) (Harder & Company Community Research, 2007).

Kindergarten Readiness/ Child Performance

- The number of children who met or exceed the PALS **Pre-K test scores rose by 322% and 112%** respectively in the Letter Sounds and Beginning Sound Awareness subtests after implementation of Raising A Reader (PALS Pre-K—Head Start, 2005).

- Raising A Reader English and Spanish speaking participants **performed significantly higher in Book Knowledge, Comprehension and Print Knowledge** on the FACES assessment as compared to national norms and local Head Starts not participating in RAR (Pacific Consulting Group, 2001).

Selected Chronology of Research and Evaluation Activities

Program evaluation in the Raising A Reader MA program and all affiliates nationally is ongoing. Raising A Reader MA is happy to provide copies of these evaluation reports upon request. Please email info@raisingareaderma.org or call 617-292-BOOK (2665).

Current Evaluations:

- Anthony, J., Principal Investigator:
Promoting School Readiness and Literacy-rich Home Environments through the Texas Early Education Model and Raising a Reader. University of Texas Health Sciences Center, Children's Learning Institute
- Perez-Granados, D.R., Principal Investigator:
Parent-toddler Book Sharing in Low-income Families: Effectiveness of a Home-Based Intervention. California State University, Monterey Bay & Stanford University, Children's Health Council Preliminary findings

2009

- The Raising A Reader Program Results Evaluation, A First 5 Shasta-McConnell Foundation, Evaluation Solutions, Redding, CA, Dr. Sharon Brisolaro
- North Carolina Partnership for Children/Smart Start, University of North Carolina Frank Porter Graham Child Development Center
- Raising A Reader Massachusetts Evaluation, Harvard Graduate School of Education, Dr. Nonie K. Lesaux and Dr. Andrea E. Anushko

2008

- First 5 San Joaquin Harder & Company Community Research, San Francisco, CA
- Smart Start The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc, 2008 Evaluation Report Summary University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, FPG Child Development Center
- Thrive by Five Washington's Reading Readiness Initiative, Organizational Research Services, Seattle, WA
- Evaluating the Multnomah County Raising A Reader Program 2007-2008, NPC Research, Portland, OR

2007

- Measuring the Impact of Raising A Reader in a Native American Community Bentham & Associates, Tecumseh, OK
- Evaluating the Multnomah County Raising A Reader Program, Public Policy Research, Portland OR & Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR

2001-2006

- Roaring Fork Colorado Raising A Reader Program, Pacific Consulting Group, Palo Alto, CA
- First 5 Sonoma Counties Children and Families Commission, Lafrance Associates (now LFA Group), San Francisco, CA
- Evaluating the Impact of Raising A Reader A Literacy Skill Program For Preschool Children, United Way South Hampton Roads, VA
- An Assessment of Early Literacy Skills and Effects Associated with Raising A Reader, United Way of the Bay Area, San Francisco County, Applied Survey Research, Watsonville, CA
- Peninsula Community Foundation, Pacific Consulting Group, Palo Alto, CA
- Evaluating the Impact of the Raising A Reader Book Bag Program, Home Visiting Nurses, Santa Clara, CA Pacific Consulting Group, Palo Alto, CA