

# **LENA Start™ Parents Show Increases in Parenting Domains Beyond Those Measured by LENA**

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Results

# Background

- The problem: LENA automated measures do not provide information about many areas that could be positively affected by LENA Start
- Parent participants tell us they are observing changes in their child and families: they are more confident, more connected to community, etc.
- Goal: To develop a short survey that will measure pre-post changes in domains such as parenting self-efficacy, knowledge of child development, parental stress, etc.

# Questionnaire Development

- Step 1: Identify Content
- Reviewed LENA Start manual to identify domains targeted but not directly measured in program
- Reviewed parent questionnaires & observational tools focused on: parenting self-efficacy, social support, parentchild interactions, knowledge of development, parental responsiveness, parental stress, reactivity/distress, parental involvement
- Considered feedback from parents about their perceptions of changes (e.g., interviewed coordinators about anecdotal reports, reviewed parent feedback questionnaires, testimonial interviews, etc.)
- Step 2: Crafted questions with the following requirements:
- ♦ Must be short—limited the # of items to 1 page
- Need variation—created questions that were not biased towards elevated responses on pre-test
- ♦ Simple scoring—used easy nominal scoring scale

### **Pilot Testing**

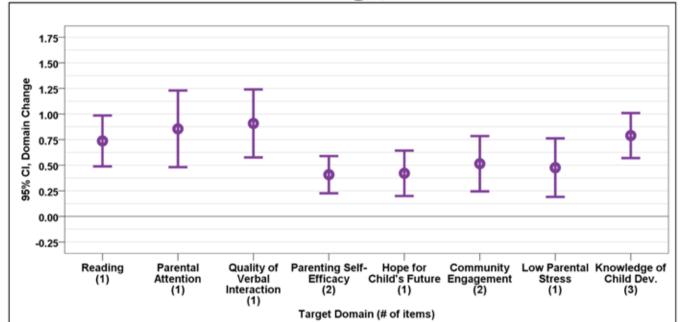
- ◆ Version 1
- ♦ 18 questions, N=36 completers
- Literacy level too high, too long
- 11 items showed significant elevations pre-post
- Version 1.5
- ♦ 13 questions, N=42 completers
- ⋄ Lower literacy level, shorter
- 8 items showed significant elevations
  pre-post

### Final Version 2.0

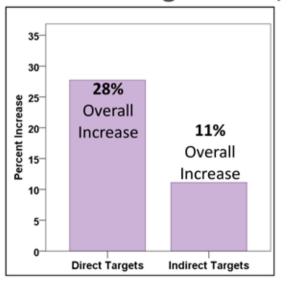
- Included 12 of the questions that showed significant pre-post increases from 2 pilots
- Reading level was grade 5.6 according to Felsch-Kincaid reading level scale
- ◆ Domains:
- ♦ Direct Targets:
  - 1) Knowledge of child development
  - 2) Book reading
  - 3) Quality of verbal interaction
  - 4) Parental attention
- ♦ Indirect Targets:
  - 1) Parenting self-efficacy
  - 2) Hope for child's future
  - 3) Community engagement
  - 4) Parental stress

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### **Domain Change, Pre-Post**



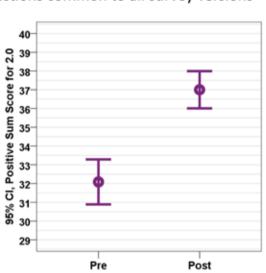
### Percent Increase in Target Areas, Pre-Post



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- ◆ 15% increase in total score\*
- Paired t-test showed overall change was statistically significant (+4.9, SD 4.7, p<0.001)</li>
- \*Total score was calculated using the sum of 9 questions common to all survey versions



- 84% of respondents showed increases in total scores
- Effect size of 1.02

### **Conclusions**

- ◆ Participants demonstrate significant elevations in positive parenting perceptions and interactive behaviors after participating in LENA Start
- ♦ **Reading:** 29% increase
- ♦ Parental Attention: 31% increase
- ♦ Quality of Verbal Interaction: 30% increase
- ♦ Parenting Self-Efficacy: 10% increase
- ♦ Hope for Child's Future: 10% increase
- ♦ Community Engagement: 14% increase
- ♦ Low Parental Stress: 12% increase
- ♦ Knowledge of Child Development: 22% increase