KING

EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY

Learn
Aprender

Laugh
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Appreciate
Apreciar

Grow
Crecer

Home of the King Cubs
101 Main Street
Little Elm, TX 75068

Testimony to the Senate Education Committee

April 3, 2007

Thank you, Chair Shapiro and Members of the Committee.

I am Debbie Clark, Principal of King Early Learning Academy in Little Elm Texas. Little Elm ISD is located in the North Texas Lake Lewisville area and has a student population of 5,200. All Pre-K students qualifying as at risk in Little Elm ISD attend King's full day program. We currently have an enrollment of 260 3 & 4 year olds. 84% of the Pre-K families are considered economically disadvantaged and 63% are LEP.

After completing a successful first year with TEEM, which included one control and three target teachers, I chose to fund the remaining thirteen classrooms for the 2006-2007 school year, so that all of our students and staff would have the same educational opportunities and success. I am very proud to state that TEEM has made a huge impact campus-wide.

Teachers are excited and empowered by the success of their students. Students have grown leaps and bounds in the area of phonological awareness due to purposeful planning and instruction. This encourages us, since researchers have found that phonological awareness is a predictor for reading success. Since our integration of writing throughout the day in all centers, we have seen dramatic improvements. Students are sounding out words, drawing with more detail and counting words in sentences.

Teachers are making a paradigm shift that learning is not limited to small group, circle or center time. Learning is continual throughout the day even through transitioning times. Students are now being caught reciting nursery rhymes or involved in finger plays while walking down a hallway going to lunch or involved in rhyming or word/letter association games while lining up for recess.

Administering CIRCLE assessments through the use of PDAs, have given us a powerful tool in identifying students' strengths and weaknesses. Teachers are able to receive quick feedback for the planning needs of each student. Web reports are generated to provide teachers with color-coded at risk student groupings with suggested activities. I now see teachers carrying around the web report data with them during center or small group time to guide their instruction. End of year CIRCLE assessment will guide instruction for those students attending summer school.

Connections are being made between school and home. Parents are excited by their child's growth. Many parents are noticing that, in lieu of receiving worksheets in the daily home folders that seem to have no meaning to the child, they are noticing that their children are expressing their understanding of concepts by clapping out syllables in words or creating rhyming words at home.

Raising student achievement requires even our master teachers to reflect deeply on their current teaching, refining what works and abandoning or changing what does not. TEEM's monthly interactive professional development and weekly mentoring supports our teachers continuous reflection and improvement. Becoming a truly accomplished teacher is a life-long journey. We feel TEEM has given our teachers a strong road to continue this journey driven by best practice and supported by research.

Due to our involvement with TEEM, we have confidence that our "at risk" students will enter Kinder prepared to learn to read and sustain a level of academic achievement equal to or above their peers.

Thank you for allowing me to testify. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

printing help ?

CIRCLE Assessment | Class Summary
Wilson | Middle of Year

	Screeners			Phonological Awareness					
	Letters	Vocabulary	Listening	Rhyming 1	Rhyming 2	Alliteration	Words in a …	Syllabication	Onset Rime
✔ Tania	3	1	5	6	2	5	2	5	3
✔ Arianna	21	23	5	9	4	5	2	6	4
✔ Alexis	34	26	5	9	3	7	5	7	5
✔ Osarumwende	21	17	4	6	0	3	2	3	0
✔ Hernan	26	14	5	7	4	7	4	6	3
✔ Megan	2	12	5	6	1	4	0	7	1
✔ Kaylah	10	22	5	9	5	4	2	5	0
✔ Steve	23	14	5	7	3	5	1	6	3
✔ Devon	24	26	4	7	4	3	3	4	1
✔ Xavier	34	21	5	5	5	7	5	6	2
✔ Jimmy	44	22	5	5	4	5	2	6	3
✔ Sergio	11	21	4	6	2	4	3	4	4
✔ Amarissa	11	19	4	8	1	3	1	6	2
✔ Jose	2	6	5	9	3	2	0	4	2
✔ Jessica	6	15	4	8	2	6	1	6	3
✔ Rebecca	7	10	5	7	3	5	3	6	1
✔ Viviana	30	12	5	9	3	5	3	6	3
✔ Ever	4	10	2	4	1	4	3	4	3
✔ Tania	6	10	3	8	1	6	5	6	3
Molly	1	22	4	5	1	4	0	3	0

Progress

✓ **ALexis** Williams   3   17   5   6   2   4   1   2   0

Progress

Here are the assessments you have completed for the Middle of Year:

21 of 21 full CIRCLE assessments
21 of 21 Letters
21 of 21 Vocabulary
21 of 21 Phonological Awareness

What do these scores mean?

Each score corresponds to a level of understanding, which provides a common-sense way to interpret where your children are along their journey to reading.

Full	Some	Emerging

Key

✔ Assessment complete

Class Activities

CIRCLE suggests activities for the whole class if at least half of your children show only emerging understanding of a concept.

As you conduct assessments and review results, look for concepts in which many children show emerging understanding. These areas will be the ones to address with intentionally planned activities for the whole class.

Activity suggestions may also change as you complete more CIRCLE assessments and learn more about where your children are along their journey to reading.

CIRCLE Assessment | Group Summary

Wilson | Middle of Year

Group Name	# Children	Top 3 Activities
Alliteration Group Jose	1	**Tongue Twisters (#1) Fingerplays and Poems (#2) Sounds in Motion (#3)**
Letters Group Tania Megan Jose Molly ALexis	5	**Letter Sorting and Matching (#28) Name Sort (#12) Name Chart (#14)**
Listening Group	0	**Do You Hear What I Hear? (#1) Find the Sound (#2) Who Says That? (#3)**
Onset Rime Group Osarumwende Megan Kaylah Devon Rebecca Molly ALexis	7	**Hear It All! (#1) Onset Rime Chant (#2) Mystery Word (#3)**

Group		Activities
Rhyming 1 Group	**0**	**Rhyming Books, Poems, and Songs (#1) Fingerplays (#2) Rhyming Basket (#3)**
Rhyming 2 Group Osarumwende Megan Amarissa Ever Vargas Molly	**6**	**Rhyming Books, Poems, and Songs (#1) Fingerplays (#2) Rhyming Basket (#3)**
Syllabication Group ALexis	**1**	**How Many Syllables in a Name? (#1) Pass the Pail (#2) Garden Time (#3)**
Vocabulary Group Tania Jose	**2**	**Pictures Need a Thousand Words (#1) News of the Day (#4) Roll and Tell (#8)**
Words in a Sentence Group Megan Steve Amarissa Jose Jessica Molly ALexis	**7**	**Be a Word (#1) How Many Words in a Sentence? (#2) Which is Longer, Car or Ambulance? (#3)**

Joslyn Citlali
Michelle Vanessa
Victor Arturo
Alex Roselio Alexander
Brisa Eduardo
Brissa Dayana
Neida Alexa
Ashley Arianna

Kevin
Santana

3 No
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