



Results

# Step By Step Learning

*...learning one step at a time®*

## Step By Step Learning® Teach Me To Read At Home™ Family Literacy Training

for Parents of Pre-K and Kindergarten At-risk Students

Teach Me To Read At Home™, a family literacy program designed by Step By Step Learning®, provides families with literacy activities so they can support their children's reading development at home. The program delivers knowledge of developing basic reading skills, promotes discussion about the school district's assessment and data collection, and prepares families for delivering effective reading activities at home. Step By Step Learning® helps families promote literacy at home and collaborate with classroom teachers, connecting home activities back to the classroom.

The program includes six monthly literacy sessions, each of which are covered in a dedicated session:

1. **Print Awareness: Take a Look in a Book**
2. **Letter Recognition: Letters and Little Ones**
3. **Vocabulary Building: Little Ones, Big Words**
4. **Early Language Awareness: Talk it Up!**
5. **Phoneme Awareness: What's That Sound?**
6. **Letter Sounds: A is for Apple**

### Family Literacy Training Works!

Step By Step Learning® conducted a series of five 90-minute family literacy training sessions through the 2006-2007 school year for families whose children were entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2007. Families participated in a large group session during which they learned about a particular literacy topic while their children played literacy games, supervised in another room. Discussion topics included: reading aloud to your child, vocabulary, letter recognition, phonological awareness, and letter-sound correspondence. Families were then divided into smaller breakout groups, each with a teacher volunteer, to practice the lessons related to the topic that was discussed in the larger group. The children were then reunited to their families, who then practiced the newly learned lessons with their child(ren). Teacher-trainers provided real-time feedback and guidance to the families as they worked through the lessons.

**“Successful school programs always have a family involvement component. A fundamental fact about kids and reading is that they have to practice. If there is no practice at home, the kids can fall behind.”**

*Louisa Moats, renowned reading literacy specialist and author of LETRS®*

**Overall, the District's kindergarten Fall benchmark scores improved over 25% from any of the previous five years that DIBELS® data was collected, which was due to the Family Literacy Training Program designed and developed by Step By Step Learning®.**

### The Results are Clear

- ★ To determine the effectiveness of the family sessions in improving their children's literacy skills, comparisons were made between the Kindergarten literacy skills of students whose families participated in the program (the intervention group) and students whose families did not participate (the comparison group). The results suggest that the family sessions had a significant effect on improving certain literacy skills for children. Moreover, these effects were demonstrated upon the children's entry into Kindergarten, as well as later in the school year.
- ★ Program participants entered Kindergarten with higher skills in Letter Naming Fluency. Additionally, their performance in Nonsense Word Fluency, Phoneme Segmentation Fluency, and Initial Sound Fluency continued to be significantly higher throughout the school year than that of students in the comparison group. Families provided their children with more assistance in particular literacy skills during the year prior to Kindergarten entry, as a result of their participation in this program.
- ★ These findings suggest that providing families with literacy training can improve particular literacy skills in their Pre-K and Kindergarten children that are critical to reading success.



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