Early Literacy and Learning Model (ELLM)* Theory of Action and Logic Model

The ELLM Theory of Action

If preschool children (especially those at-risk) regularly engage in intensive, explicit, and intentional early literacy instruction embedded in quality programs using standards- and research-based curricula delivered with fidelity by practitioners who are provided ongoing job-embedded support; then participating children will acquire the knowledge and skills needed to become successful readers.

The ELLM Logic Model

INPUTS

Research Foundations
- Early Literacy and Reading
- Cognitive Science
- Social/Emotional Development
- Contexts for Productive Learning
- Professional Learning/Development

Researcher Expertise
- Early Childhood Education
- Early Literacy and Reading
- Professional Development and Leadership
- Instructional Design
- Research Design and Evaluation

FIE Experience
- Use Research Findings to Develop Effective Early Literacy Curricula and Instructional Support Strategies
- Conduct Individual Assessment of Preschool Children (e.g. 1500 children annually)
- Use Research Findings to Develop and Implement Professional Learning and Job-Embedded Coaching Experiences
- Design and Conduct Random Clinical Trials (PCER)

OUTPUT

Key Instructional Attributes
- Aligned and measurable goals, challenging standards, and high expectations
- Early literacy curriculum and instruction grounded in scientifically-based research
- Use of assessment results: for guiding instruction; monitoring student progress; assessing impact, implementation fidelity, and improvement
- Aligned and targeted instructional strategies/activities
- Regular and/or job-embedded professional learning and support for teachers, assistants, and administrators
- Families as partners in their children’s learning
- Additional support for children at-risk of not achieving standards state-mandated standards

Content Foci
- Code-focused
  - Letter and sound knowledge
  - Phonological awareness
  - Concepts of print
- Language-focused
  - Oral language development
  - Vocabulary and background knowledge
  - Emergent writing
Learning Competencies
- Social and instructional norms and expectations
- Use of higher-order thinking skills
- Reflecting on work

Content Materials and Resources
- Detailed Monthly Instructional Packets
- Teacher Resource Guide and Curriculum Framework
- Curriculum resource guides (e.g. Phonological Awareness, Print Concepts, Rituals and Routines, Poems)
- Informal Assessment Guide
- Word Wall Booklet and Cards
- Family Involvement Resource Guide
- Family Calendars (Yearly)
- Alphabet Song DVD/CD

Instructional Processes
- Whole Group Lessons and Activities
- Accommodates Individual Variability (e.g. use of Small-Group Teaching Table and One-on-one instruction)
- Language/Literacy Center Activities
- Language/Literacy Enriched Play Centers
- Classroom Book Lending Library
- Interactive Read-Alouds
- Shared Reading
- Instructional and Social Conversations
- Making Thinking Explicit
- Scaffolding Children’s Learning and Thinking, Language and Social and Self-Regulation Skills
- Intentional Building on Prior Knowledge

Who We Serve
Directly
- Preschool Classroom Teachers, Assistants, and Administrators
- School Readiness, Head Start, and Public School (Title I/ESE) Programs

Indirectly
- Preschool Children and their Families

OUTCOMES

Child
- Improved levels of early literacy and language development
- Improved readiness for formal education

Classroom Practices
- ELLM implementation fidelity
- Improved classroom literacy environments
- Improved literacy instructional practices
- Improved use of screening, monitoring tools and use of results to guide instruction
- Improved levels of family engagement

In

Professional Learning Experiences
- Collaborative Needs Assessment
- Initial Knowledge and Skill-Building Seminar
- Periodic Knowledge and Skill-Building Sessions
- Job-Embedded Coaching
- Electronic Technical Assistance (e.g., regular conference calls, episodic emails and telephone calls)

* ELLM/Plus (2006) includes content area instruction