



Early Learning Coalition
of Palm Beach County

Ready to Learn. Ready for Life.



PALM BEACH'S INNOVATIVE PRACTICES TO ASSURE HIGH-QUALITY EXPERIENCES FOR CHILDREN

EARLY LEARNING FELLOWSHIP: BUILDING LEADERS IN ADVOCACY AND INNOVATION



Transformative Program

A 9-month fellowship for early childcare professionals focused on improving early education quality.



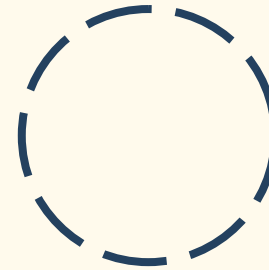
Comprehensive Training

Includes dynamic sessions, collaborative discussions, and hands-on experiences in advocacy, policy, and best practices.



Leadership Development

Equips leaders to enhance family engagement, foster inclusion, ensure financial stability, and drive community change.



EARLY LEARNING FELLOWSHIP: BUILDING LEADERS IN ADVOCACY AND INNOVATION



Goal

Increasing quality fellowship and understanding policies for childcare.



Timeframe

9 Months:
September 2024 - April 2025.



Participation

12 Early Childcare Professionals.

Fall
2024

September-November
Foundations and Orientation

Winter
2024

December-January
Deep Dive into Advocacy & Practices

Spring
2025

February-March
Implementation & Preparation

April
2025

**Tallahassee Visit
& Culmination**
Fellows visit Tallahassee
for Children's Week

EARLY LEARNING FELLOWSHIP: KEY HIGHLIGHTS



Develop Leadership Skills: Engage in hands-on advocacy, policy implementation, and effective communication.



Enhance Childcare Practices: Explore strategies for quality improvement, inclusion, and family engagement.



Foster Financial Stability: Gain tools to strengthen the business side of early childhood education.



OUTCOME: BUILD STRONG FOUNDATIONS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



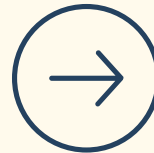
Strengthen Operations:

Fellows adopt best practices that enhance financial sustainability and operational efficiency.



Long-Term Improvements:

Fellows implement strategies that lead to consistent quality advancements in childcare programs.



Expand Community Reach:

Sustainable solutions ensure ongoing benefits for children, families, and communities for years to come.

GUIDING FACTORS FOR THE SELECTION OF MY READING ACADEMY AND MY MATH ACADEMY



Improved Learning Outcomes: My Reading Academy and My Math Academy enhanced learning for PreK students from diverse backgrounds.



Validated Research: Third-party evaluation confirmed alignment with ESSA standards, ensuring quality and rigor.



Positive Educator Feedback: Educators observed academic gains, increased student engagement, and higher confidence, supporting program implementation ahead of new DEL accountability standards.



PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Pilot launched with Age of Learning programs in Palm Beach in January 2023

Conducted a research study of that found a significant reduction in the 84% decrease in the learning gap at sites that used programs.

Expanded rollout for the 23 - 24 school year to ~8k kids.

Rolled out to 256 sites included school district, head start, private providers and home based.







MY READING ACADEMY SIGNIFICANTLY BOOSTS LEARNING GAINS AND KINDERGARTEN READINESS FOR PRE-K STUDENTS ACROSS PALM BEACH COUNTY

Higher Scores: Students using My Reading Academy scored 45 points higher on average on the spring Star Early Literacy™ Assessment, equating to nearly four months of additional learning.

Greater Growth: These students showed a monthly average growth of 16.3 points, surpassing the Florida benchmark of 12 points, compared to 11.9 points by their peers.

Improved Kindergarten Readiness: 79% of My Reading Academy users achieved the Kindergarten-Ready score of 707 or above, versus 63% of non-users. Additionally, 90% of teachers reported positive impacts on students' reading skills and confidence.

2023 – 2024 VPK efficacy Study Findings

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- ➔ **Treatment Group:** Students used My Reading Academy for **at least 10 hours** over the school year.
 - ➔ **Comparison Group:** Students **did not** use Age of Learning programs matched using propensity score weighting:
 - Demographics (% female, % Hispanic)
 - CLASS and Star Early Literacy PM1 Scores
 - ➔ **Study Population:** 2,722 VPK students
 - ➔ **Mean Usage:** 37 minutes per week (16 hours, 26 weeks)
 - ➔ **Verified Findings:** Third party validated as conforming with ESSA standards

1. Grouped students based on whether they used My Reading Academy or not

2. Matched PM1 and PM3 FAST scores for each group

3. Identified treatment group as students that used My Reading Academy with fidelity

4. Evaluated common attributes of students in the treatment group

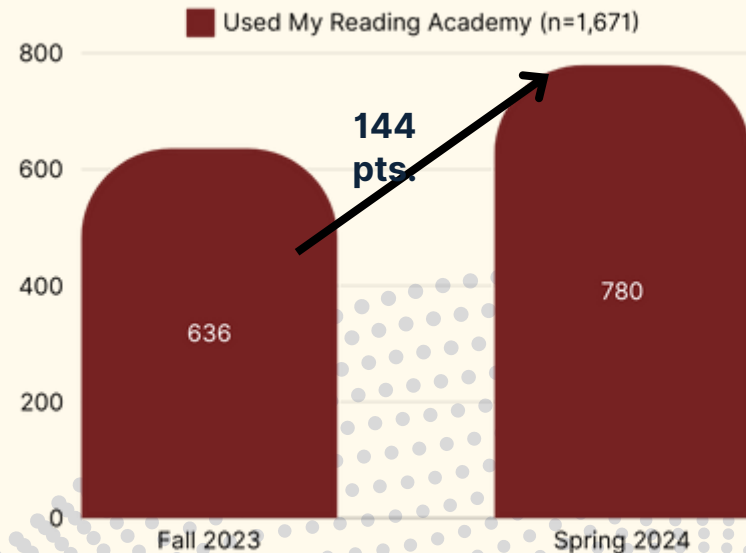
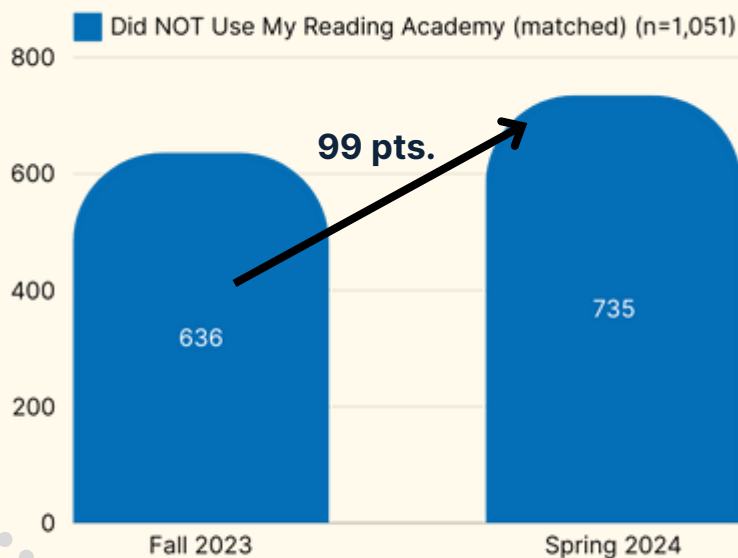
5. Created a matched sample of non-users that had similar attributes as treatment group to form the comparison group

VPK SCALED SCORE ON STAR EARLY LITERACY

Using My Reading Academy resulted in:

- Equivalent to nearly 4 additional months of learning.
- Effect size = 0.48
p-value < .001

Students using My Reading Academy grew 45% more



NEW VPK ACCOUNTABILITY STANDARDS

Voluntary Prekindergarten Provider Performance Metric and Designation

Effective School Year 24 – 25



CLASS accounts for **50%** of quality designation



Defines **707+** on the FAST assessment as kindergarten ready.



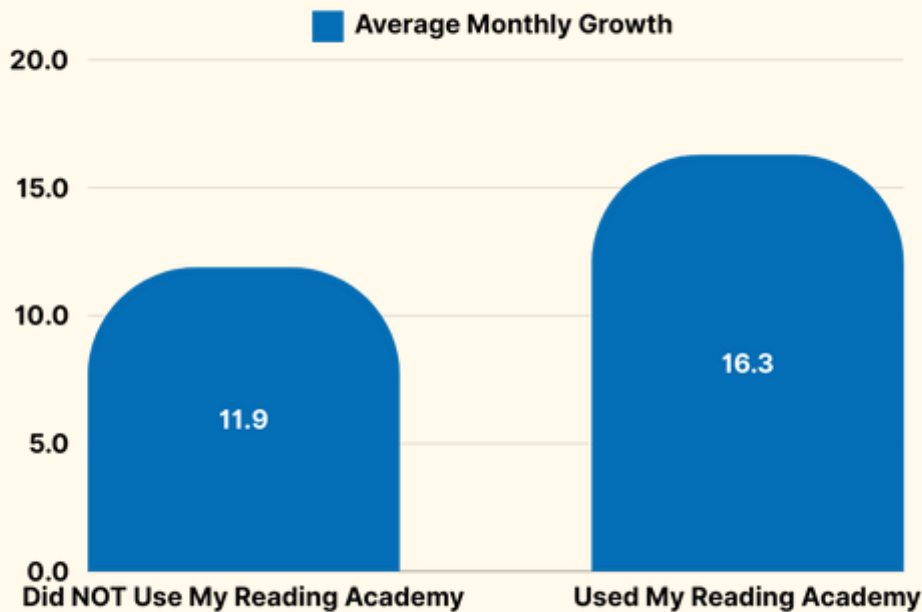
Sets the expectation that each child needs to grow at least **12 points** a month.



NEW VPK ACCOUNTABILITY STANDARDS

Those who used My Reading Academy made an average monthly growth of **16.3 points** on the Star Early Literacy™ Assessment, *well above* the monthly benchmark of 12 points of growth.

This is about **37 percent** greater growth in comparison to their matched peers not using the program, who made an average monthly gain of 11.9 points on the assessment (effect size = 0.43, $p < .001$).





Aruna Gilbert
Chief Program and Policy Officer
The Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County

Ensuring every child in Palm Beach County is Ready to Succeed in School and Life.

www.elcpalmbeach.org



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