



Amarillo School Readiness Efforts Pay Off for Children and Teachers

Amarillo is one of the longest-served Texas School Ready (TSR) communities in Texas. TSR is an innovative program that aims to increase children's school readiness through five evidence-driven components: research-based curriculum, technology-driven child progress monitoring, facilitated teacher professional development, ongoing teacher coaching, and sustainability. The model has been praised nationally by early education leaders such as Robert Pianta, Bruce Fuller, and Sara Mead to name a few.

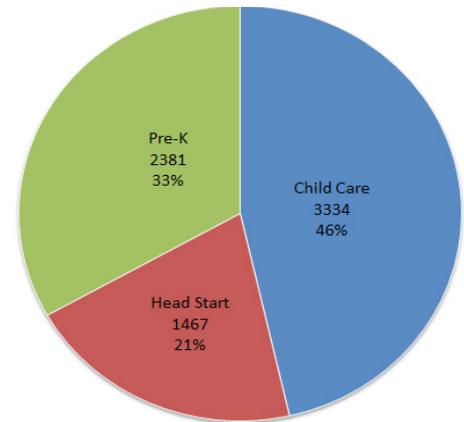
TSR focuses on teacher behavior in the classroom, the quality of instruction, and importance of the environment early education takes place in. As such, the Texas School Ready project ensures that the vehicles that have the greatest potential for positive impact on child outcomes (teachers and environment) receive attention and proper resources in order to improve the quality of early childhood programs.

Since the beginning of the project in 2003, TSR has partnered with sites in the Amarillo area to implement the program with preschool teachers. In fact, TSR has served approximately 7,100 children and 400 teachers in a variety of settings in the Amarillo area since 2008. We are proud to continue working with Amarillo College as a TSR Lead Agent for 2015-2017!

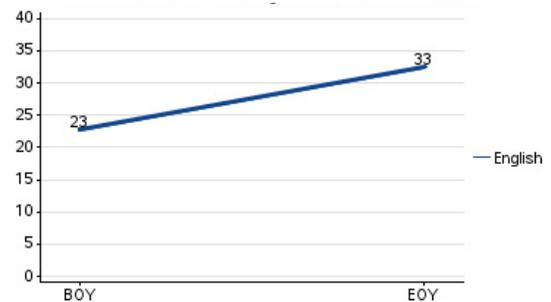
The graphs on this page show data from Amarillo TSR classrooms last year. Children in Amarillo TSR classrooms show steady growth in key predictors of literacy development like identifying letters in the alphabet and understanding phonological patterns like rhymes and alliteration. These are important school readiness skills that help children be more successful when they get to kindergarten.

As illustrated in the charts to the right, children in Amarillo TSR classrooms show considerable gains in skill development from the beginning of the school year (BOY) to the end of the school year (EOY)!

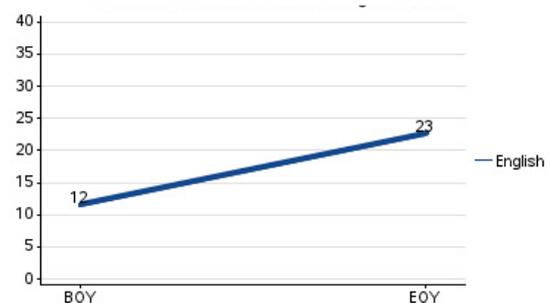
Amarillo Area Students Served in TSR Since 2008



Student Gains in Phonological Awareness Amarillo, 2014-2015



Student Gains in Letter Knowledge Amarillo, 2014-2015



For more information about the Texas School Ready project, visit texasschoolready.org





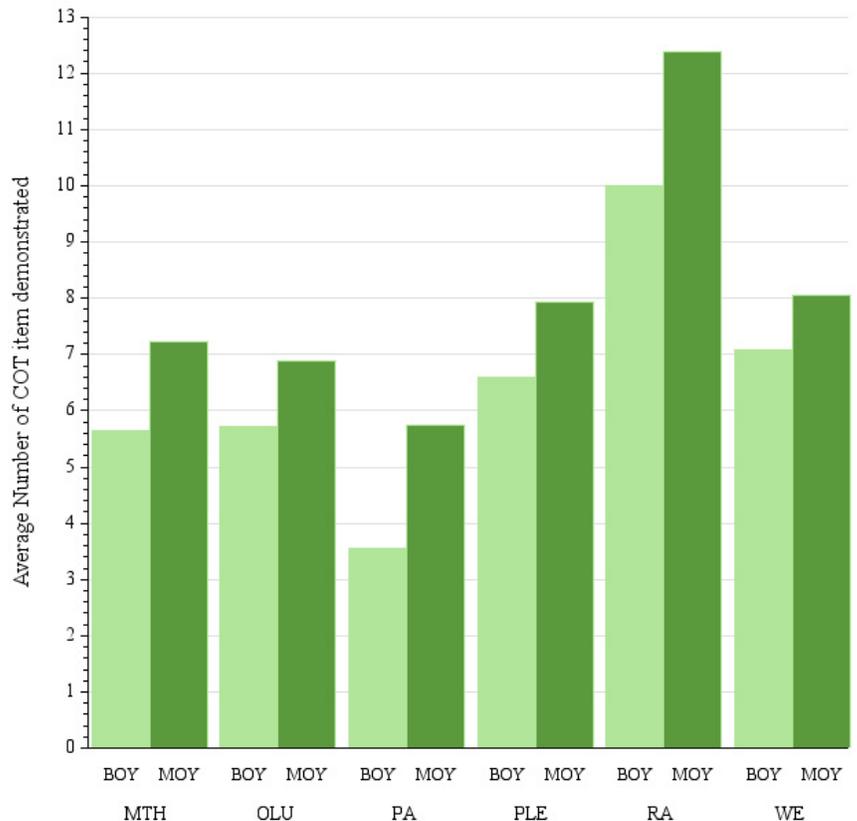
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At the heart of TSR is the desire to increase teachers' use of evidence-based practices and improve the quality of teacher-child interactions. Using cutting-edge techniques like data-driven coaching in the classroom, TSR is able to move outcomes in a positive direction. Pre-k teachers in Amarillo have shown dramatic changes after just a few months of participation in the project. Improvements have been realized across all content areas related to key early childhood indicators!

Teachers who have participated in TSR have expressed the tremendous impact the project has had on their classroom instruction and professional growth. Karissa Ellison, the assistant director of Storyland Preschool in Amarillo, spoke about her experiences as a former teacher participating in TSR, and other teachers at her center:

“I am so very thankful that I have been a part of the TSR program! I have not only been blessed to be a teacher in the program, but now as an assistant director, I am seeing the benefits throughout our center. This program has not only given teachers the materials to become better teachers, it's taught them how to use them as well. I can honestly say I feel like a better teacher for having gone through this program.”

Teacher Gains in the Use of Instructional Strategies
Amarillo College, 2014-2015



MTH: Math, OLU: Oral Language, PA: Phonological Awareness, PLE: Print/Letter & Early Reading, RA: Read Alouds, WE: Written Expression

As illustrated in the graph above, Amarillo teachers increased the quality of their practices dramatically from the beginning of the school year (BOY) to the middle of the school year (MOY)!

For more information about the Texas School Ready project, visit texasschoolready.org

