



Houston School Readiness Efforts Pay Off for Children and Teachers

As the home of the Texas School Ready project (TSR), Houston is one of the longest-served 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.

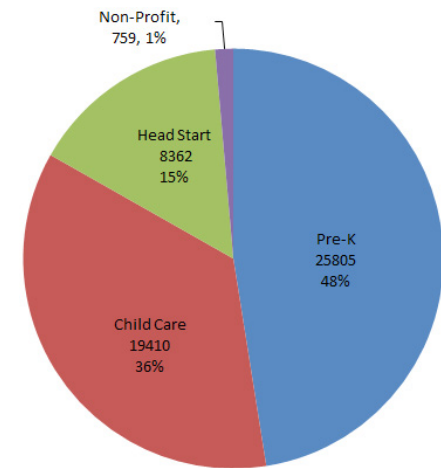
TSR focuses on teacher behavior in the classroom, the quality of instruction, and importance of the environment early education takes place in. As such, the Texas School Ready project ensures that the vehicles that have the greatest potential for positive impact on child outcomes (teachers and environment) 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 Houston area to implement the program with preschool teachers and impact child outcomes. Since 2008, TSR has served 54,000 students and 3,200 teachers in a variety of settings in the Houston area. We are proud to continue working with Houston Independent School District as a TSR Lead Agent for 2015-2017.

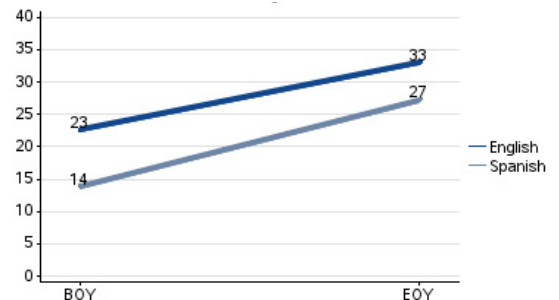
The graphs on this page show data from Houston area TSR classrooms last year. Children in Houston TSR classrooms show steady growth in key predictors of literacy development like identifying letters in the alphabet and understanding phonological patterns like rhymes and alliteration. These are important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

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

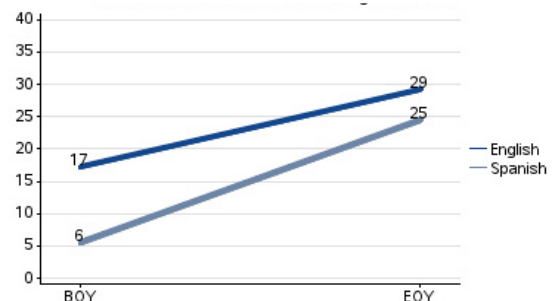
Greater Houston Area Students Served in TSR Since 2008



Student Gains in Phonological Awareness Houston, 2014-2015



Student Gains in Letter Knowledge Houston, 2014-2015



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





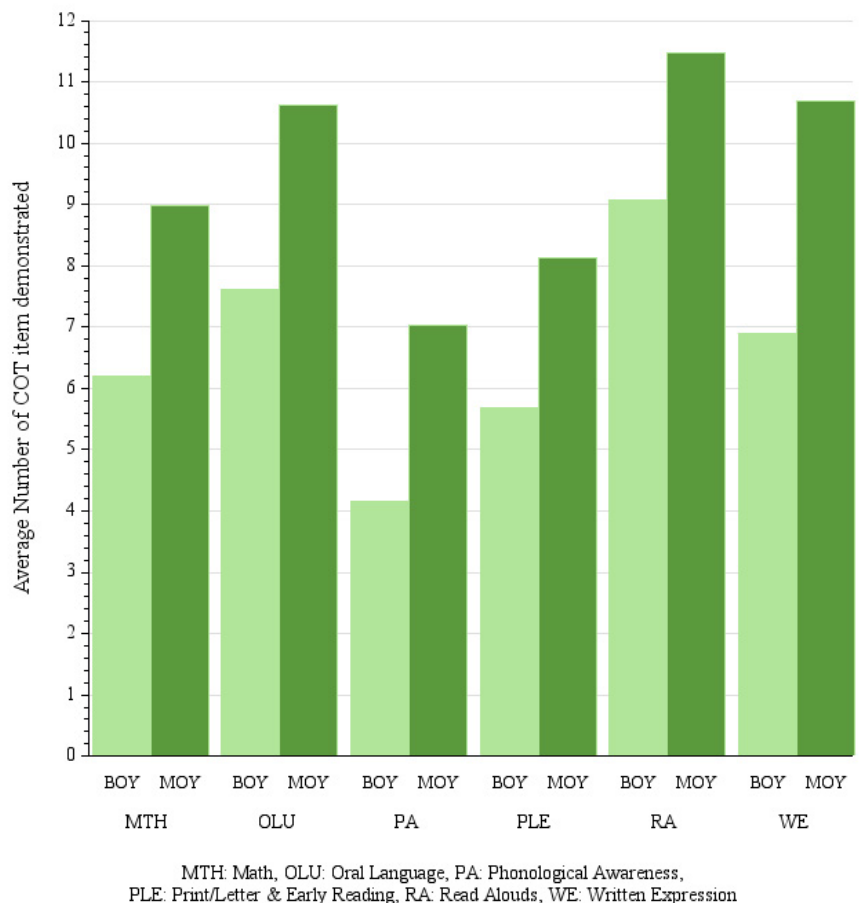
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At the heart of TSR is the desire to increase teachers' use of evidence-based practices and improve the quality of teacher-child interactions. Using cutting-edge techniques like data-driven coaching in the classroom, TSR is able to move outcomes in a positive direction. Pre-k teachers in the Houston area 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. Ethel Mack, a teacher at Learning Time Academy in Houston, explained:

“We have participated in TSR for three years. As a teacher in this program, I have truly learned a lot, especially with different teaching strategies, hands on activities, and appropriate learning methods for 3 and 4-year-old children. Not only has this wonderful program helped me, but also my center. My students are so excited and eager to learn. They are now aware of the purpose for the centers, small groups, and whole group activities. The students' vocabulary is beyond average (I call them my little dictionaries!) The parents at my center are always involved and are seeing a big change in their children's learning abilities through TSR! I am so pleased and happy to be a part of this program.”

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



As illustrated in the graph above, Houston TSR teachers increase the quality of their practices 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

