



# Waco School Readiness Efforts Pay Off for Children and Teachers

Texas School Ready (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.

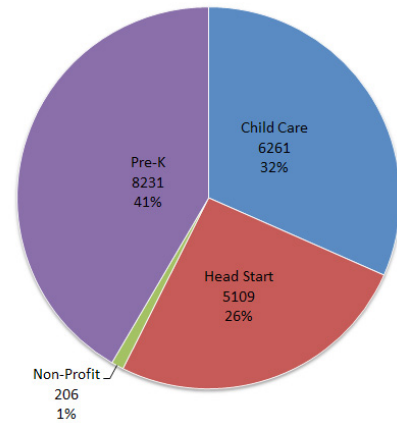
TSR focuses on teacher behavior in the classroom, the quality of instruction, and importance of the environment early education takes place in. As such, the Texas School Ready project ensures that the vehicles that have the greatest potential for positive impact on child outcomes (teachers and environment) 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 across Texas to implement the program with preschool teachers. In fact, TSR has served approximately 19,000 children and 1,300 teachers in a variety of settings in the Central Texas area since 2008. We are proud to continue working with Economic Opportunities Advancement Corporation (EOAC) as a TSR Lead Agent for 2015-2017!

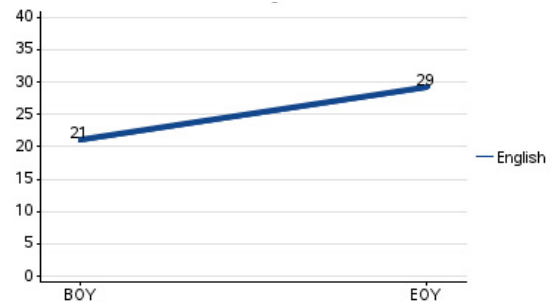
The graphs on this page show data from EOAC TSR classrooms last year. Children show steady growth in key predictors of literacy development like identifying letters in the alphabet and understanding phonological patterns like rhymes and alliteration. These are important school readiness skills that help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

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

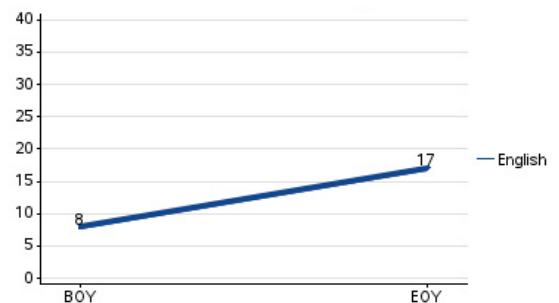
Central Texas Area Students Served in TSR Since 2008



Student Gains in Phonological Awareness EOAC, 2014-2015



Student Gains in Letter Knowledge EOAC, 2014-2015



For more information about the Texas School Ready project, visit [texasschoolready.org](http://texasschoolready.org)





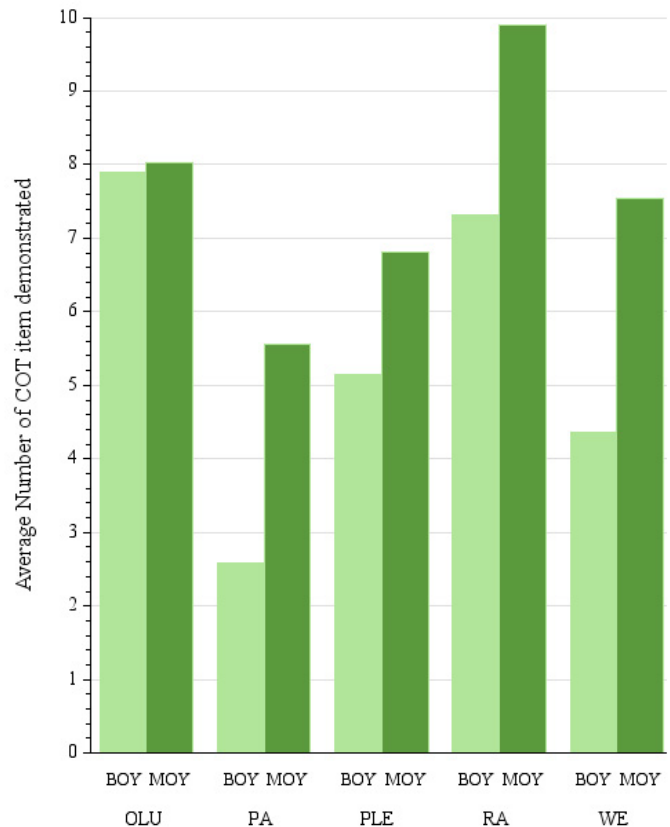
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At the heart of TSR is the desire to increase teachers' use of evidence-based practices and improve the quality of teacher-child interactions. Using cutting-edge techniques like data-driven coaching in the classroom, TSR is able to move outcomes in a positive direction. Pre-k teachers participating in TSR have shown dramatic changes after just a few months of participation in the project. Improvements have been documented 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. Janisha Price, a teacher at C. W. Ortlip Head Start in Waco, spoke about her experiences in TSR:

"I really want to say Thank You to TSR, because y'all saw something in me that I didn't see in myself at that moment. Thank you for encouraging me to become a better teacher. Y'all are the light at the end of my rainbow. The reason why I say that is because if it wasn't for what I was taught I don't really believe my love for what I do would have been fully captured. If there is anyway I can encourage anyone to just stay on that 'yellow brick road,' I know how hard times can get when dealing with children, policies, procedures, paperwork, and then it feels like your work world is pulled right from under you. TSR is hard at the beginning! Just keep going! What honestly keeps me coming back are those teaching moments kids you didn't think you would reach you are actually reaching. I go home everyday at the end of the day with a smile on my face...always loving my job! I love my kids!"

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



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

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

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