

# Pre-Family Literacy: ESOL for Parents & Caregivers with Low Levels of English Proficiency

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# The traditional Family Literacy program

- Serves parents at High Beginner levels of English proficiency and above
- October to June
- Focused on teaching parents the English they need to:
  - Navigate the public schools
  - Become involved in their child's school
  - Teach their children at home



Read Across America Day



Volunteering at Kindergarten Literacy Day and English Learner Family Day

# The need

In February 2019, we identified a significant number of parents at the **Beginning Literacy EFL** who were:

- Unable to access and benefit from our typical Family Literacy curriculum
- At significant risk for not participating in their children's education
  - language barriers
  - cultural differences
  - a lack of understanding of the American school system

***We could find no viable alternatives to serve these parents***

# Goals of our project

1. Provide instruction for parents that we had been unable to serve
2. Develop a Family Literacy curriculum for parents with low levels of English proficiency
3. Provide a pathway to our typical Family Literacy program in the Fall of 2019

# Our Literacy Lab project curriculum

- 2.5 hour classes twice a week over 13 weeks
- Total of 65 hours of instruction
- Max of 18 students
- Utilize lessons from the Future Intro (Pearson)
  - Target basic English skills
- Adapt curriculum materials with a focus on
  - Navigating the public schools
  - Basic communication with the school

# Obstacles

- **Identified parents were unable to participate in the summer**
  - **Work, childcare, parenting responsibilities**
  - **The class schedule was pushed back**
- **Our initial teacher was unable to complete the class**
  - **A second teacher taught the second half**
- **Work and other demands continued to impact participation and attendance**



# Participants

- Identified and assessed 14 parents at the Beginning Literacy level
  - 8 parents enrolled in the Literacy Lab class
  - 5 parents completed the class
- 
- 6 were female, 2 were male
  - 5 were from China, 3 were from Brazil



# Outcomes

## **BEST Plus 2.0**

- 100% of participants improved their English proficiency
- The average increase was 90 points
- 1 parent had an EFL gain, moving from Beginning Literacy to Low Beginning

## **Family Literacy Self-Assessment Checklist**

- 100% showed gains in navigating the school

# Outcomes

## Family Literacy Self-Assessment Checklist *examples*

***I can identify important people and places in my child's school.***

| Pre | Post |
|-----|------|
| 13% | 88%  |

***I can use the school's website and translate it into my own language.***

| Pre | Post |
|-----|------|
| 13% | 100% |

***I can understand the American school grade system.***

| Pre | Post |
|-----|------|
| 13% | 100% |

# Highlight:

## “Bobo”

- **Dropped the traditional Family Literacy class**
  - Very engaged in Literacy Lab class
- **English proficiency moved from Beginning Literacy to Low Beginning**
- **Increased ability to navigate the school**
  - Use the school website and translate it into her own language
  - Call the school to report her daughter's absence
- **Passed the written and road test to obtain her driver's license**
- **Accesses translation from our Integrated Services team**
- **Will join Family Literacy class this Fall!**

# Goals of our project

1. Provide instruction for parents that we had been unable to serve ✓
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# Lessons Learned

**Accessibility** of classes was a significant challenge

- Child care issues (esp. over the summer)
- Work schedules
- Competing family responsibilities

During the pandemic, we found that *online learning increased parental participation*

Parents may benefit from:

- Online learning
- Asynchronous options

Joseph Burrell is presenting

10:02 AM

free-training-tutorial.com/word-games/crossword-puzzles-beginners.html

EdpuzzleCrossword

L\*\*\*  
Across, 4 letters.  
Spreads light in the room when turned on

LAMP

OK Cancel Reveal Word

Check puzzle

meet.google.com is sharing your screen. Stop sharing Help

Yes! We've got more easy crosswords for you!

Lincoln Hancock Class

Turn on captions

Joseph Burrell is presenting

## Online Learning in Family Literacy





Online Family Literacy Class

# Adapting during the pandemic

- **Closer partnership with Quincy Public Schools**
  - Assisted over 200 EL families in choosing hybrid vs. remote options
  - Assisted over 105 families with accessing technology for remote learning
  - Ongoing translation/interpretation services
- **Typical Family Literacy class will be online**
- **Online Conversation class for parents with more Advanced levels of English**
  - Mentor parents with lower levels of English
  - Role in English Learner Parent Advisory Council (EL-PAC)
- **Integrated Services team will provide wrap-around social services**



Translation support at Quincy Public Schools

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