Evaluation of the 
*Early Literacy and 
Learning Model (ELLM)*: 
A Curriculum and 
Instructional Support System

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A National Evaluation

PCER National Partners: 2002 Cohort

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Ready Readers, Ready Learners

- Unexpected competencies in young children
- Importance of quality teaching
- Under prepared and inexperienced classroom teachers
- Improving teaching by building teacher capacity (examine old and new practices)
Child Care Licensing Requirements for Teachers (August 2004)

ELLM

Early Literacy & Learning Model

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The Early Literacy and Learning Model (ELLM)

- A research- and standards-based early literacy curriculum.
- An instructional support system for teachers and coaches.

**ELLM serves approximately 533 teachers and 9430 children.**
Translate research findings into instructional practices that help teachers improve young children’s emergent literacy skills.

Implement collaborative learning strategies for teachers, families, and children aimed at helping children become eager and proficient readers.

Assess the effectiveness of those strategies and use the results to guide future actions.
ELLM Components

ELLM Curriculum and Instructional Support System

- Working Partnerships
- Classroom Model
- Family Involvement
- Professional Development and Coaching
- Practice-Focused Research and Evaluation

Research Bases Undergirding ELLM:
- Early Literacy and Reading Research
- Learning, Teaching, and Curricular Design
- Professional Development and Adult Learning
- Leadership, Change, and Reform
- Family Engagement
- Research Methodologies and Evaluation

Improved Literacy Outcomes for At-Risk Children

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ELLM Working Partnerships

- Head Start Programs
- Subsidized Programs
- Faith-Based and Private Programs
- School-Based Programs
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ELLM Classroom Model

1 hour of literacy instruction daily = 180 hours of literacy instruction each year.

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Big Red D-O-G
Sung to the tune of "B-I-N-G-O"

There was a girl who had a dog
And Clifford was his name-oh.

Big red D-O-G.
Big red D-O-G.
Big red D-O-G.

And Clifford was his name-oh.
Children Who Start Behind Often Stay Behind


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Reading Aloud and Emergent Comprehension

**ELLME Teachers**

- Read aloud 15 minutes daily, 4 times
- Discuss title, author and illustrator of book
- Ask 4 types of high level questions
Number of Books at Home


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Independent Reading

ELLMT Teachers

- Schedule a 10 minute Independent Reading time daily for children
Independent Reading

Display of Books

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**Oral Language, Listening and Vocabulary Development**

**ELLM Teachers**

- Engage children in daily vocabulary development
- Discuss topic, characters, and setting
- Develop a Listening Center for daily use
- Discuss personal experiences and common events
- Provide opportunities for children to ask and answer questions
- Provide opportunities for daily conversations


Phonological Awareness and Phonics Connections

**ELLM Teachers**

- Recite songs, poems and nursery rhymes daily
- Develop Phonological Awareness for 15 minutes daily:
  1) Concept of word
  2) Beginning sound recognition
  3) Beginning sound application
  4) Rhyming word recognition
  5) Rhyming word application
  6) Syllable segmentation
  7) Onset and rime blending
  8) Onset and rime segmentation
  9) Phoneme isolation
  10) Phoneme blending
  11) Phoneme segmentation
  12) Phoneme manipulation

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Clifford, Clifford what did you think?  
You rolled in cotton candy and now you are  
PINK!  
Clifford, Clifford what did you do?  
You fell into the paint and now you are  
BLUE!  
Clifford, Clifford you silly fellow,  
You played in the flowers and now you are  
YELLOW!  
Clifford, Clifford don’t wear a frown.  
You spilled chocolate syrup and now you are  
BROWN!  
Clifford, Clifford you’re a sight.  
You fell in the flour and now you are  
WHITE!  
Clifford, Clifford I’m not being mean.  
You rolled in the grass and now you are  
GREEN!  
Clifford, Clifford don’t hide in the sack.  
You got all dirty and now you are  
BLACK!  
Clifford, Clifford that’s the way to use your head.  
You took a good bath and now you are  
RED!
Letter and Sound Knowledge

**ELLM Teachers**

- Display names of children around room
- Display pictures and label classroom furniture
- Display letters of the alphabet at eye level around the classroom
- Develop a Letter Center for daily use
- Provide manipulative letters, alphabet puzzles, alphabet books
- Cluster Letters for Instructional Purposes
- Scan letters and words when reading
- Associate letters with sounds
- Play the ELLM ABC Video Tape daily
Letter Clusters

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Letter and Sound Knowledge

Manipulation of Letters

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Print Concepts and Emergent Writing

**ELLM Teachers**

- Designate 15 minutes for drawing and writing daily
- Encourage children to draw shapes and letters
- Encourage children to write their name
- Discuss and brainstorm writing topics
- Model writing
- Encourage children to write about personal experiences
- Accept inventive spelling
- Provide time to share writing
- Develop a Writing Center for daily independent use

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Clifford is a dog.
I love Clifford!
Do you love Clifford, too?
Clifford said, “I like books.”
Print Concepts and Emergent Writing

Student Work

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Print Concepts and Emergent Writing

Student Work

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Word Wall
ELLM at Work

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ELLM Family Model

- Read with Your Child Daily
- Classroom Lending Library

Helping Your Child Succeed in School
- Four School-Based Literacy Activities
- Family Literacy Calendar
- Monthly Family Tips
- Story Take-Home Bracelets

Family and Home Activities

30 minutes daily = 90 hours of literacy instruction each school year.

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Professional Development and Coaching

- Authentic opportunities for job-embedded/ongoing teacher learning
- Opportunities for teachers to think about content and the process of learning
- In-depth, active, and explicit learning opportunities
- Collective and collegial work groups

Learning to Carry Out New Practices Effectively
Coaching to Build the Capacity of Teachers and Improve Instruction

- The role of the ELLM Coach
- The ELLM Interactive Coaching Model
- ELLM Coaching Tools
- Developing ELLM Coaching Expertise
Six Roles of the ELLM Coach

- Literacy Instructional Leader
- Learning Facilitator
- Emerging Content Expert
- Communicator, Team/Culture Builder
- Problem Solver and Critical Thinker
- Data-driven Change Agent
The ELLM Interactive Coaching Model: An Overview
The ELLM Interactive Coaching Model: Doing

Literacy in the ELLM Classroom

Teacher/Coach Feedback Conference Specify Next Steps

Coach Demonstrates Lesson/Teacher Observes

Teacher Models/Coach Observes

Coach/Teacher Feedback Conference Specify Next Steps

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ELLM Implementation Continuum for Teachers

Awareness → Basic → Competent → Emerging Expert
ELLM Coaching:
An Hour A Week – Every Week
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<th>Tuesday</th>
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The ELLM Interactive Coaching Model: Child Literacy-Focused Outcomes

- Phonological Awareness and Phonics Connections
- Oral Language, Listening and Vocabulary Development
- Print Concepts and Emergent Writing
- Read Aloud and Emergent Comprehension
- Letter and Sound Knowledge

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ELLMM Practice-Focused Research and Evaluation

- Inform instruction
- Answer outcome questions
- Help practitioners make informed decisions
The ELLM/PCER Study

Classroom Characteristics

- Bay, Duval, Miami-Dade Counties
- 48 teachers, 76% have assistants
- Teachers: 20 degreeed - 28 non-degreeed
- Average age: 46+
- 14 years experience in the field, 6 years experience at the site
- 4-year-old children, 50% girls - 50% boys
- Typical curricula: *High Scope* (34%), *High Reach* (14%), *Creative Curriculum* (16%), Multiple and Other (36%)
- All full-day: 6 hours to 11 ½ hours
The Instruments

Test of Early Reading Ability, Third Edition (TERA-3)

Alphabet Letter Recognition Inventory (ALRI)
## TERA-3 Results

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**Note:**

β Denotes a one-tailed test.

* * Denotes an effect that is significant at the α = .05 level.

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ALRI Results

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Major Findings

- ELLM was more effective than comprehensive curricula alone in helping 4-year-old preschool children from low-income families acquire emergent literacy skills.

- Because of the random assignment, this superior achievement can be attributed to the children’s participation in ELLM classrooms.
ELLM
Early Literacy & Learning Model

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