

SMART START PILOT GRANTS UPDATE

Raising a Reader

October 2008 Evaluation Update

After participating in Raising a Reader, parents completed the Raising a Reader Parent Survey. Of the 600 families who completed pre-program surveys, 260 (43%) completed post-program surveys. A few highlights of changes in parent reading practices are presented below.

When looking at changes in reading practices for all families, there were increases in:

- The number of minutes families read with their child.
- The number of times children asked to look at books.
- The quality of the reading experience, such as parents asking the child questions about the book.

Quality of Reading Practices

Asking questions during book sharing has been shown to improve children's pre-reading skills. Low-income families showed increases in these important reading practices.

Percent of low-income parents responding the last time they read with their child ...

	Jan 08	June 08
Child listened quietly	50%	62%
Parent asked child questions about story	54%	61%
Child asked questions about story	60%	74%

Frequency of Reading Practices

Low-income parents reported changes in the following reading practices:

	Jan 08	June 08
Number of minutes spent looking at books, each time parents read with child	19	23
Number of times child asked to look at books in the last week	4	6
% of parents who have a regular routine for looking at books	40%	46%

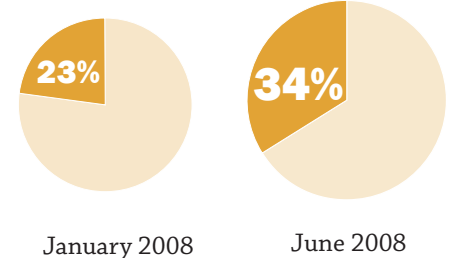
The average response for the number of times families read with their child each week increased slightly, from just below 5 times a week (4.69) to just above 5 times a week (5.01).

Library Use

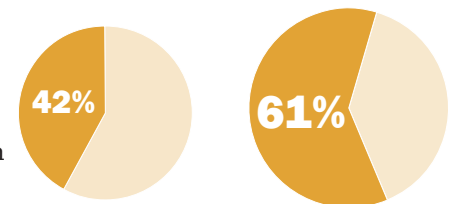
There was an increase in library use and in the likelihood that low-income families will continue to use the library.

Percent of low-income parents responding that they...

Checked out library materials



Definitely/Probably will visit library in the next month



The greatest increases were seen in low-income families, where children are at risk for scoring below grade level on tests of reading achievement. Families were considered low-income if their reported family income was less than \$30,000. Parents of 109 children in low-income families completed pre- and post-surveys.

