

84.324A – Special Education Research

Application Title: Efficacy of LENA Home for Enhancing Parent Language Supports and Children's Development

Topic and Project Type: Early Intervention and Early Learning in Special Education, Initial Efficacy Study

Project Description:

The purpose of the proposed study is to evaluate the impact of the LENA Home program on parent language supports and the language and social-emotional skills of young children enrolled in home visiting programs. LENA Home is an innovative technology-based approach to supporting home visitors working to help their families increase interactive talk. It is designed to bring an early language focus to existing home visiting initiatives and integrates LENA technology to promote parental behavior change. LENA uses a small wearable device (a "talk pedometer") combined with cloud-based software to generate feedback that is shared with parents to support increases in interactive talk with children. We will conduct a Randomized Control Trial (RCT) with 150 home visitors (n=75 treatment and 75 control) and 600 parent/child pairs (n=300 treatment and 300 control), with home visitors randomly assigned to conditions, and parent/child pairs nested within home visitors. The study sample will be drawn from a low-income, racially/ethnically diverse population of children and families enrolled in early intervention/home visiting programs and their providers in selected regions in North Carolina.

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Duration: (how many years): 5

Year 1 budget: \$600,000

Year 2 budget (if applicable): \$700,000

Year 3 budget (if applicable): \$700,000

Year 4 budget (if applicable): \$700,000

Year 5 budget (if applicable): \$600,000

Total budget: \$3,300,000