



PARTNERING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

BLACK FAMILY DEVELOPMENT, INC. AND LENA START

LENA START™

This year, Black Family Development, Inc. (BFDI) is celebrating 41 years of service to children, youth, families and the community. During that time, we have seen sustainable, positive outcomes from the programs we bring to Detroit children and their families. One of our exemplary programs is LENA START.

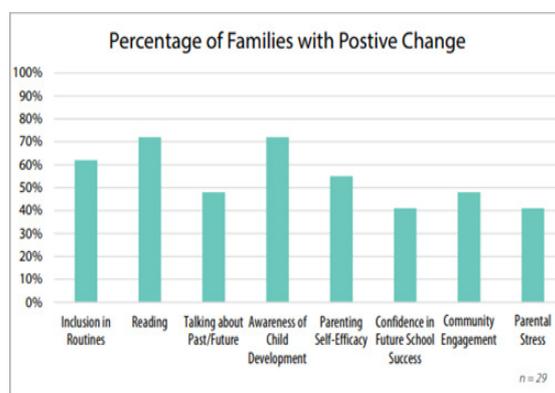
In July of 2017, Black Family Development, Inc. (BFDI) began working with the LENA Foundation, with support from the Kellogg Foundation, to bring the LENA START program to Detroit families. LENA START is a group education and support model that unites families, teaches the application of early childhood brain science, and enables a fun shared learning experience throughout the 13 – week journey to improve early literacy skills for children from birth to age 3.

Black Family Development, Inc. linked arms with Detroit/Wayne County partners who shared our expertise and passion for early literacy and family support. In partnership with BFDI, Brilliant Detroit, Wayne Children's Health Access Program, and Great Start Collaborative – Wayne quickly contributed resources for the LENA START facilitator training series. BFDI launched LENA START in Detroit in September 2017. In December 2017, BFDI, and its partners, achieved model fidelity, and the only 100% resident graduation rate of its initial cohort of LENA Start families of all the 16 nationwide implementation sites at that time.

In just two years of LENA START operations, we have impacted 100 children and families in our community! Children whose parents participated in the program are gaining over 1.5 months of developmental skills every month. Rather than falling further behind, the children are actually



catching up and surpassing their peers! Eighty-nine percent of families that completed the pre- and post-Parent Survey last session demonstrated gains in total scores; showing positive influences on parent perceptions and interactive behaviors in each of the domains detailed in the chart below.



The 2017-18 Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP) results showed that only 15.7% of the students that took the state-wide test are reading at grade level, telling us that we must continue to invest in programs that move the needle for our children and families.



LENA START is important to Detroit's children, as talk is the biggest single factor driving baby's brain growth, reading ability, and kindergarten readiness; all factors that ensure future success. Black Family Development, Inc.'s LENA Start partnership is building a strong foundation for infants' and toddlers' early language development and literacy skills.

For further information on LENA START, contact 313.758.0150 or visit our website www.blackfamilydevelopment.org