#### Changing the Odds: Lessons learned from successful programs

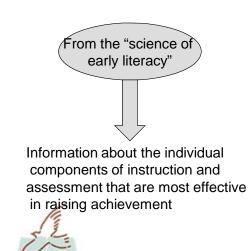
Susan B. Neuman
Professor, Director of Ready to Learn
University of Michigan



### Changing the Odds:

Lessons learned from successful programs
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 In order to effectively change the odds, we need to apply two kinds of information





Information about leadership, organization, and practices that are most effective In raising achievement

 A central problem in reading success arises, not from the <u>absolute</u> level of children's preparation for learning to read, but from the diversity in their levels of preparation. (Torgeson, 2009)



#### Two important sources of diversity

- 1. Diversity in instruction
- 2. Diversity in preparation, and family supports for learning to read



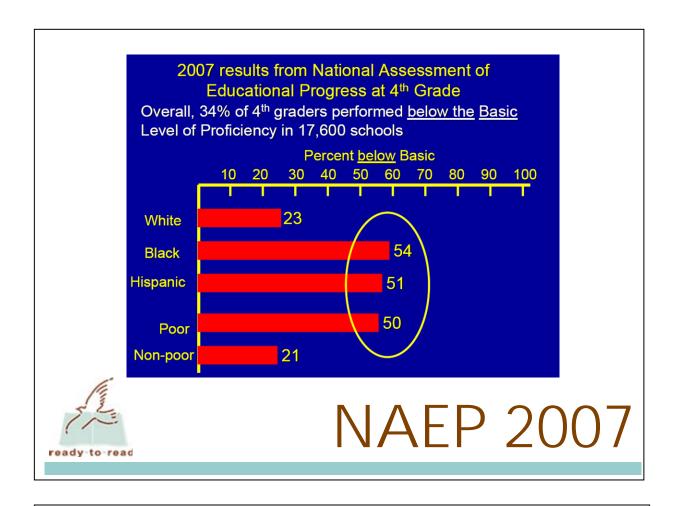
 By 3-years, children exhibit large differences in word knowledge that correlate with income level (Hart & Risley, 1996).

|                     | Yearly Exposure    | Vocabulary Size |
|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Higher - SES        | 11.2 million words | 1116 words      |
| Working Class - SES | 6.5 million words  | 749 words       |
| Lower – SES         | 3.2 million words  | 525 words       |

- These achievement differences (i) persist through high school (Biemiller, 2001), (ii) are highly correlated with later literacy skills (Hart & Risley, 2003), (iii) and perpetuate the everwidening achievement gap (Stanovich, 1986).
- In elementary school, there is little emphasis on acquisition or new words (Biemiller, 2001) or instruction of vocabulary (Scott, Jamieson-Noel, & Asselin, 2003).

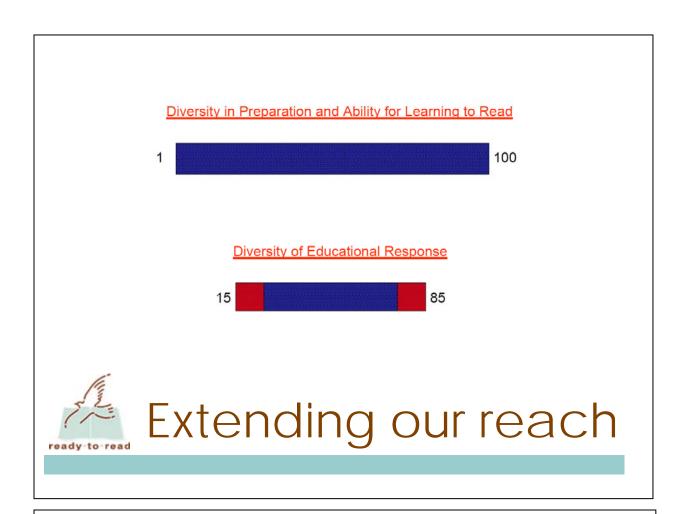


The Challenge....



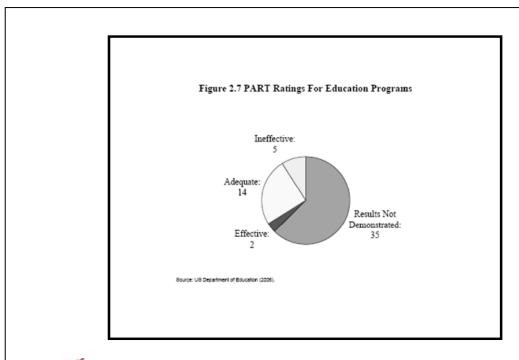
- When there is great diversity among students in their preparation for learning to read....
- <u>Little</u> variation in our teaching, and in our programs will always result in <u>greater</u> variation in student learning.





- Good hearted souls
- Weak interventions
- Short attention spans
- III-fitting interventions







Change the way we do business



#### The Changing the Odds Strategy

o Lessons learned from successful programs:

Avance

**Books Aloud** 

Bright Beginnings America's promise

Chicago Parent-child centers

Early Head Start

Nurse-family part

Head Start

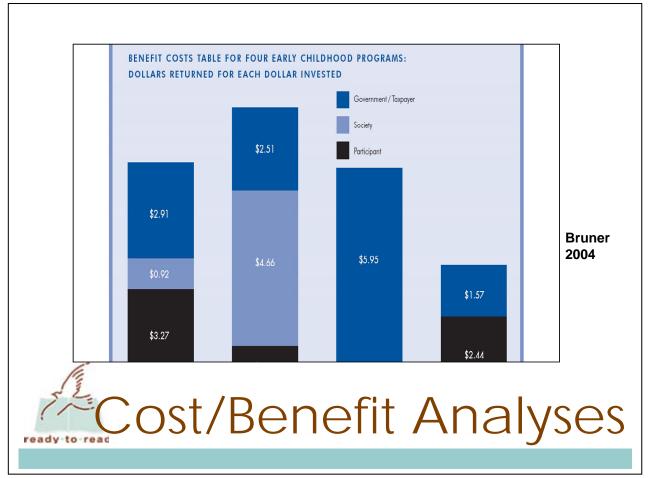
Oklahoma Preschool Project

Reach out and Read

Reading Recovery

Success for All





1. Start early...



### The prevention of reading difficulties

2. Target our programs to children's needs



Phonological awareness

Letter names

Concepts of print

Vocabulary

Background knowledge-concepts

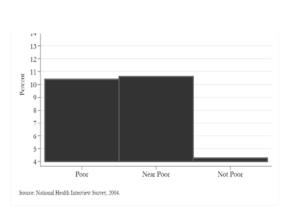
Motivation to learn and self-regulation

# Skills that are essential for early literacy development



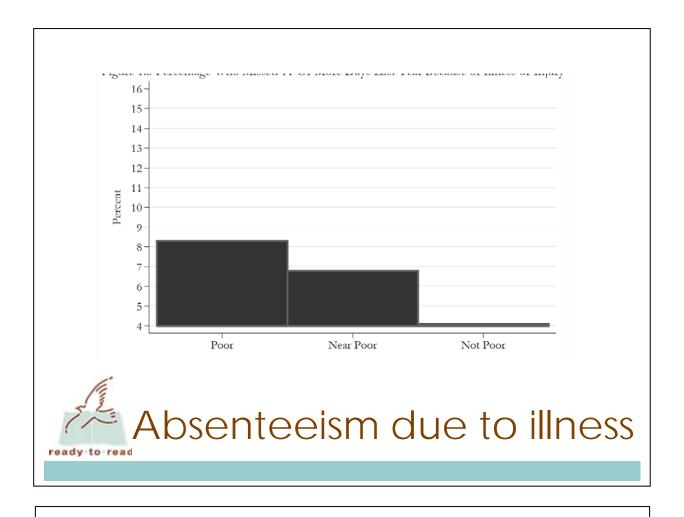
3. Comprehensive Services

Greater connection to health services



**Unmet Dental Needs** 





- 4, 5. Compensatory and Intensive instruction
  - o Greater dosage
  - o Greater depth
  - o Targeted focus
  - o Integrated instruction
    - Science
  - o Parent involvement and engagement



Efforts to increase the quality, consistency, and reach of instruction

- a. Insuring teachers have excellent professional development
- b. Monitoring and supporting classroom instruction

Are teachers providing systematic and motivating instruction?

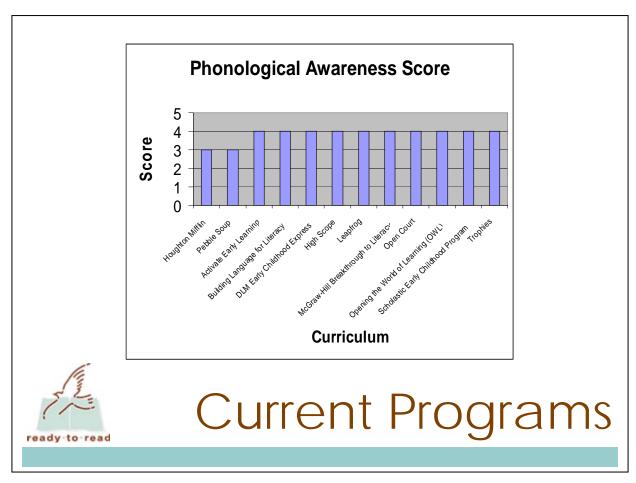
Is small group instruction differentiated to students' needs

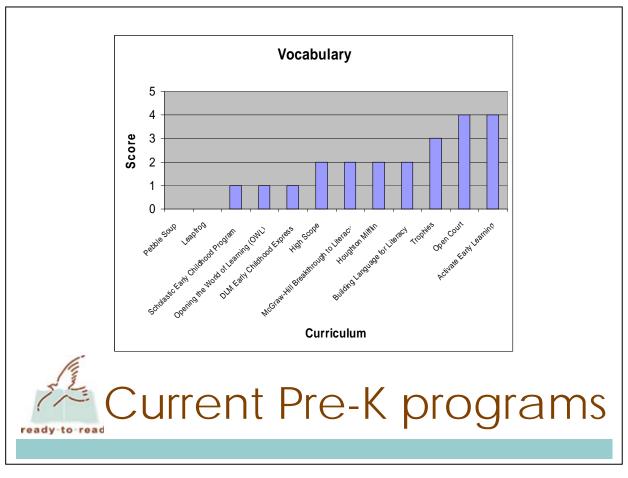
Are children engaged in thoughtful instruction?



### All curriculum are not equal

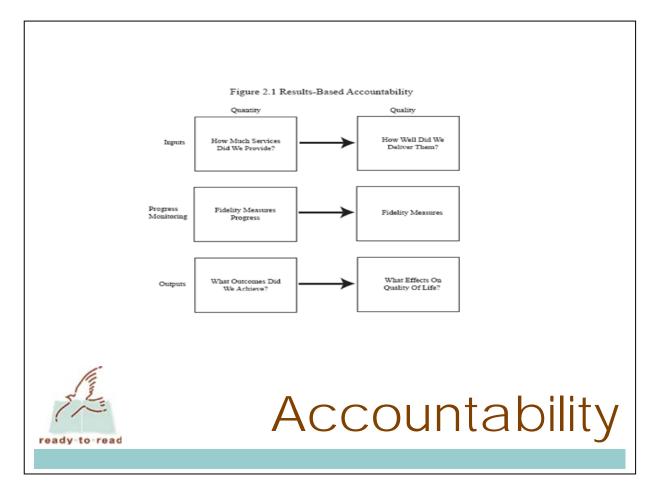






- Highly trained professionals
  - o No one-shot workshops
  - Focused pd tied to a curriculum most powerful strategy
  - o Coaching





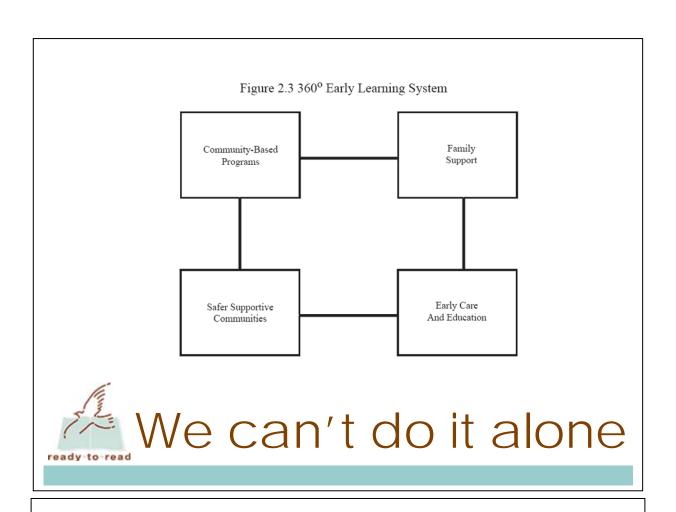
- More instructional time
- Small instructional groups
- More precisely targeted to student needs
- Clearer and more detailed explanations
- More systematic and detailed instruction
- More guided practice, review, corrective feedback



#### Powerful instruction

 We need a school and community plan that is sufficiently <u>powerful</u> and <u>targeted</u> to ensure that all children can read, and are successful performers.





Project Website:

http://readytolearnresearch.org/

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## contact information