

LENA
GROW[®]

Site Guide

v 3.1

Talk Builds Brains!



LENA[®]

Welcome to LENA Grow!

LENA Grow is an evidence-based professional development program designed specifically for early childhood educators. The focus: helping educators increase quality interactions with every child in their care.



Each year thousands of educators participate in LENA Grow and gain skills and insights that impact tens of thousands of children. We hope you'll join the movement to build a culture of early talk in early childhood education!



“ You can feel the connections, relationships, and language deepening as the data develops from week to week. With LENA, teachers can see this growth happening from a perspective we haven't had before. ... I'm not sure if when LENA created this program they intended to change the culture of a program, but it did that for us. Our program's culture has changed. ”

— Laura Rainey, Innovations and Literacy Coach at Mainspring Schools in Austin, Texas

How will LENA Grow benefit your program?

Through LENA Grow, teachers gain:

- Increased awareness of the importance of responsive language interaction.
- Insight into each child's language environment and which times of day include the most and least amounts of talk.
- Coaching on how to connect data to daily behaviors and use it to set weekly classroom goals.
- Easy-to-use techniques to increase quality interactions for children of all learning abilities and languages.



“ I believed that I was being vocal with the children daily, but the data gave a spotlight on how to scaffold conversations into taking more back-and-forth turns and being more child-initiated. I was excited to see how setting and meeting weekly goals can have an immediate impact on my learning environment. It was an eye-opening experience. ”

— Brigitte Willis, Director of A Better Day Christian Learning Center in Grovetown, Georgia

As teachers' early talk skills grow, the children in their care:

- Understand and use new and more advanced words.
- Develop stronger relationships with their teachers.
- Use language to better express feelings, resulting in fewer challenging behaviors.

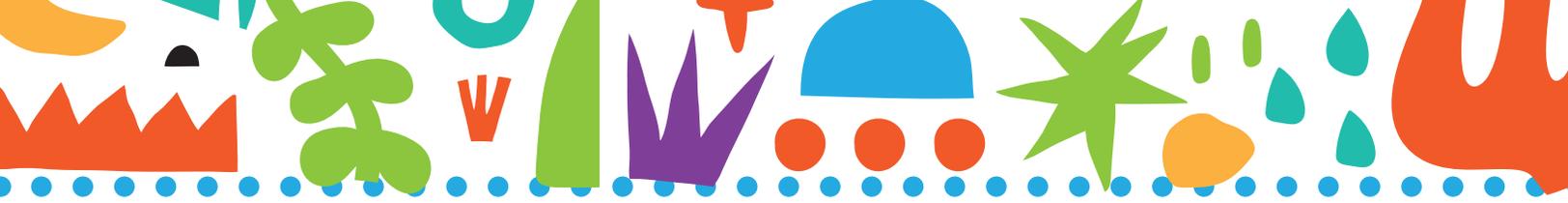


“ Sometimes the behaviors we see all the time; learning how to self-regulate, learning how to be a little more patient, learning how to use their words, those behaviors that sometimes cause the chaos in the classroom — really went away. Because we're engaged and we're creating a family of learners in our classroom. ”

— Judy Berdan, Educator at Marathon County Child Development Agency Head Start in Wausau, Wisconsin

While teachers may at first be hesitant to take on something new, post-program surveys indicate:

- 98% of educators would recommend LENA Grow to other teachers.
- Only 3% of coaches say that they know of another program that's more effective at promoting professional development in educators.
- Teachers experience significant increases in self-efficacy, job satisfaction, and beliefs and actions that support equitable language development after using LENA Grow.



The tangible results teachers achieve through LENA Grow also offer great opportunities for teacher appreciation. Here are some of the ways LENA Grow sites across the country celebrate teacher wins:



Porter-Leath teachers with their LENA Grow certificates.

#LENAweek4 I am so proud of these early childhood kids. They are not just #brainbuilders #learningthroughtalk and engaging in enriching #conversationalturns but working on so many life skills like serving themselves during mealtimes and brushing their teeth. 🧠💡❤️ @LENAEarlyTalk



Pasco County Head Start celebrates their wins by sharing photos and stories on social media.



Clayton Early Learning in Denver uses their LENA Data Wall to celebrate teacher achievements and open conversations with parents.



A center in Georgia provides snacks with encouraging messages for LENA Grow teachers.

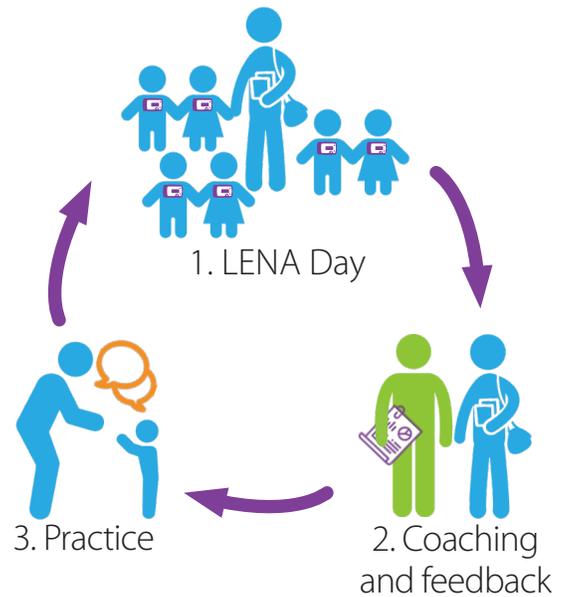
How does LENA Grow work?

The LENA Grow program combines data from LENA’s “talk pedometer” technology, weekly coaching sessions, and easy-to-use data reports and materials to help educators build more talk into daily classroom activities.

Each week of a five-week LENA Grow sequence follows the same cycle:

- 1. A LENA Day.** All the children in the room wear a LENA device in the pocket of a vest, so that conversational turns between teachers and children can be captured and measured.
- 2. Coaching and feedback.** Data from a LENA Day is turned into a series of feedback reports (see sample reports on the following pages). With guidance from a coach, teachers reflect on the reports to reach their own insights and form goals for the following week. During the session, coaches introduce and model strategies that help increase meaningful interactions during daily routines.

- 3. Practice.** These are the days between the coaching session and the next LENA Day. On these days, teachers practice what they learned and work toward achieving their goals to show measurable improvement on their next LENA Day.



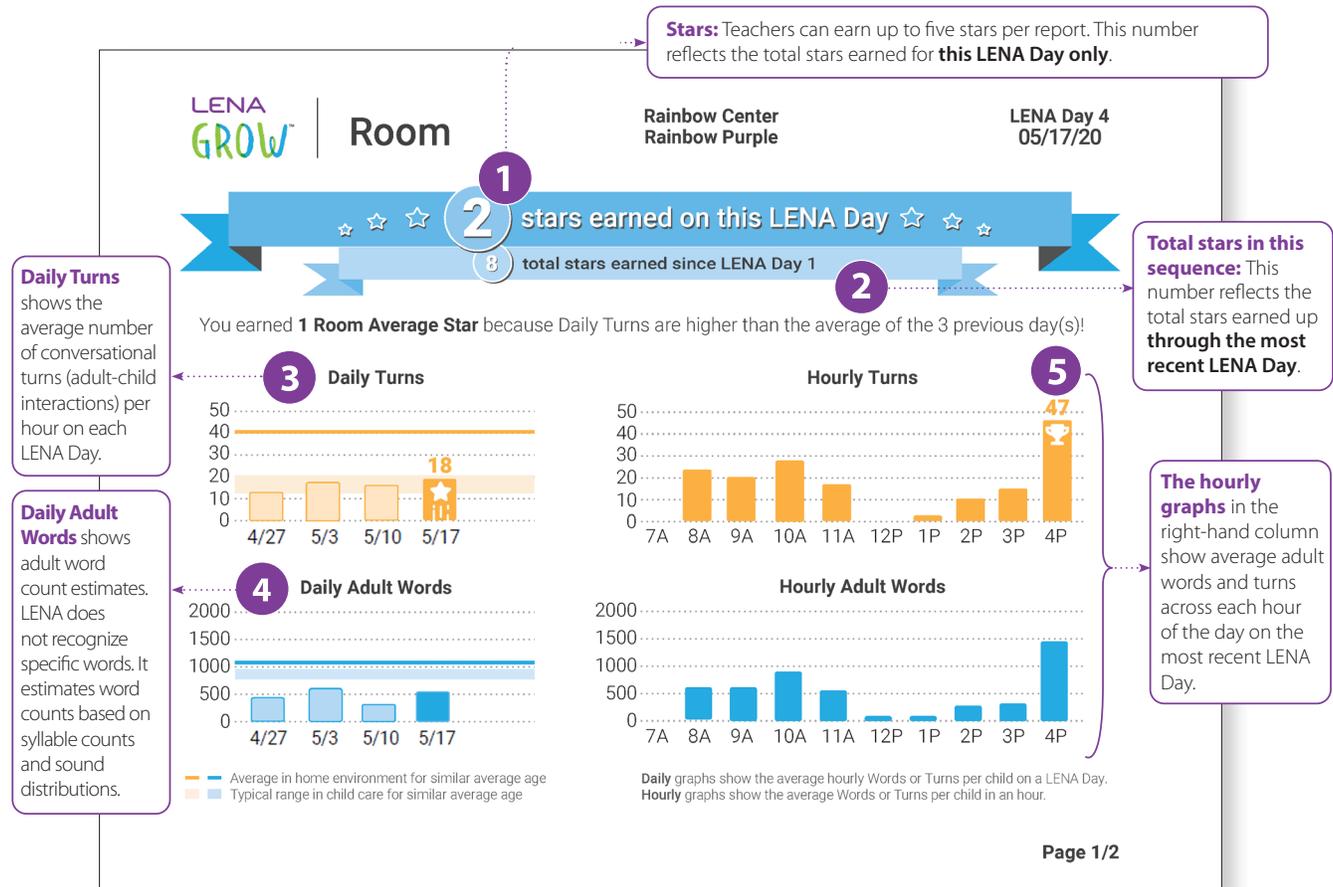
SCAN ME

Our online course, **Introduction to LENA Grow**, offers a quick overview of the science behind the program, program structure and schedule, as well as data reports and materials teachers receive. We highly recommend watching the overview video in the first lesson and diving deeper into other lessons if you have more time.

Use the QR code to access learn.lena.org/enter-your-email and begin the course.

Room Report

The Room Report provides an overview of a classroom’s LENA Day. The report shows both overall data as well as each individual child’s talk experiences. Teachers earn Interaction Stars for fostering an equitable environment where all children experience a benchmark level of talk.

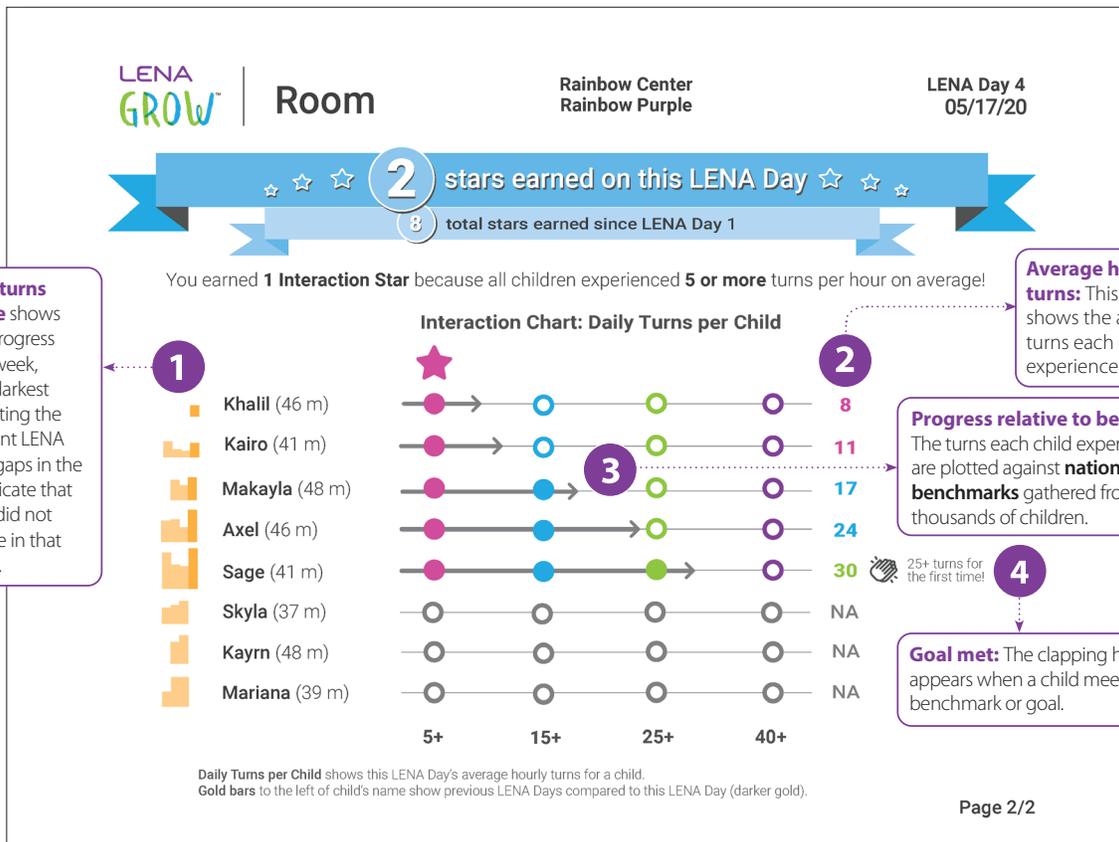


v. 20230907

“ I loved the report so much. It was my favorite part because I can understand graphs very well, and I love seeing the results. ”

— Christine Burk, Preschool Teacher, OCCRRA

Room Report (continued)

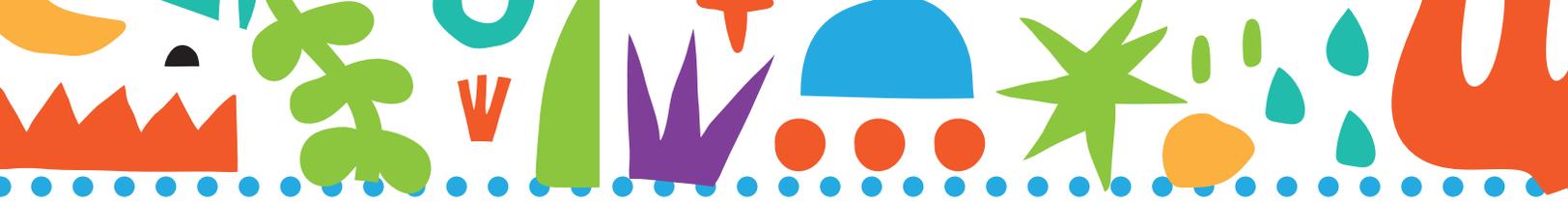


v. 20230907

Child Report

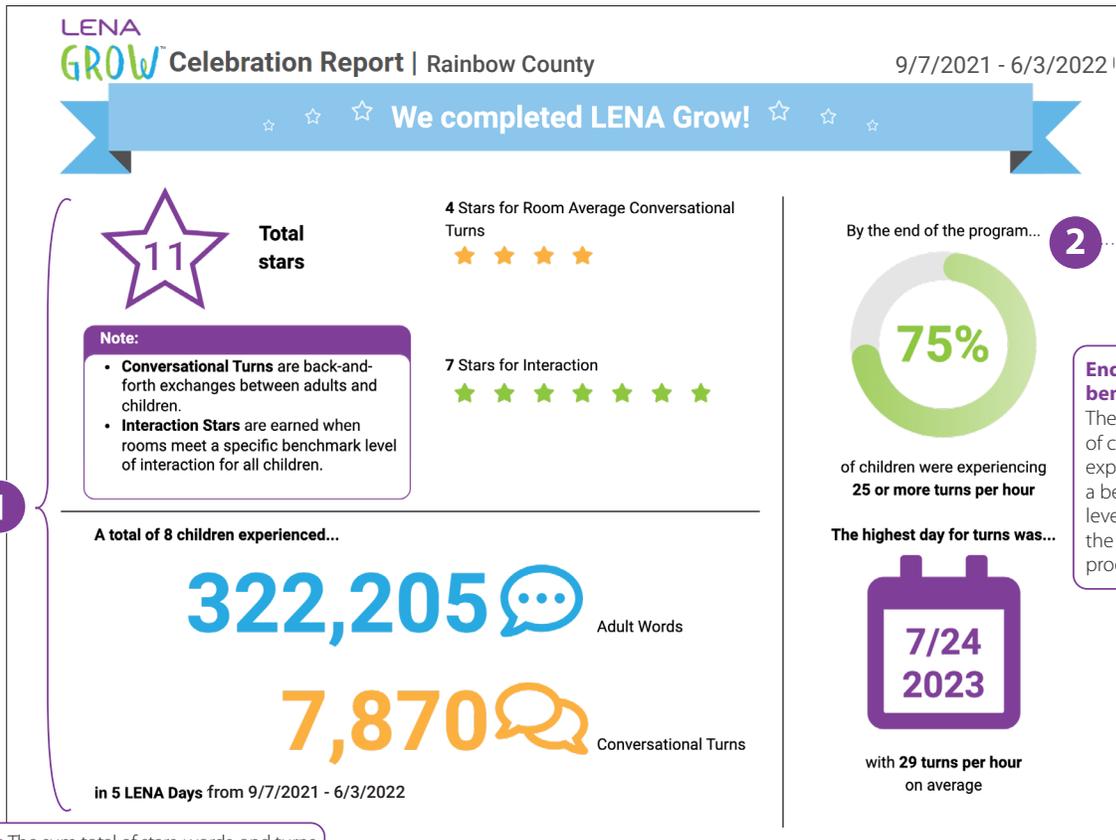
The Child Report provides a detailed view of a specific child’s language experience. These types of reports are helpful when teachers want to focus on a particular child’s hour-to-hour experience throughout the day.





Celebration Report

At the end of a sequence, the Celebration Report provides a summary of everything a room or center achieved. Frame it and hang it proudly on the wall!



End of program benchmarks: The percent of children experiencing a benchmark level of turns by the end of the program.

Totals: The sum total of stars, words, and turns across all rooms, celebrating the magnitude of your LENA Grow implementation.

v. 20230907



Site Agreement

Welcome to LENA Grow!

We're excited to partner with you to change lives together.

Whether you are a child care center, school, or family child care home, you play a pivotal role in LENA Grow's success.

Our organization agrees to provide your site with the LENA Grow program, working collaboratively to ensure a smooth experience. This agreement outlines some of the most important ways a site can set up a classroom for success. Please review carefully and talk with your LENA Grow coach if you have any questions.

LENA Grow Provider Information		Your Site Information	
Organization:		Site Name:	
Website:		Street Address:	
		City, State, Zip	
LENA Grow Provider Primary Contact		Your Site's Primary Contact	
Name:		Name:	
Email:		Email:	
Phone:		Phone:	

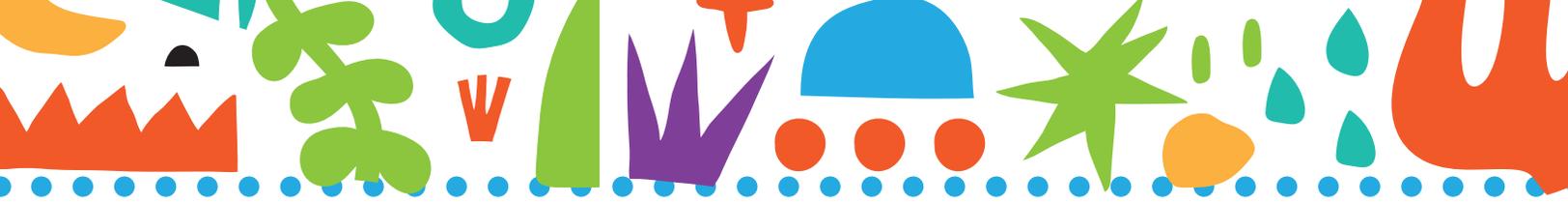
Site Commitments

Site leadership sets the tone for how LENA Grow will be embraced and embedded in your organization. Specifically, you will help:

- Foster enthusiasm
- Support teachers
- Engage families
- Collaborate with coaches

Getting Started

1. Identify a main contact to communicate with the **LENA Provider** and ensure on-site tasks are completed.
2. Work with the **LENA Provider** to decide which classrooms will participate, a target timeline for each one, and who will coach.
3. Provide coach with program information (including but not limited to): classroom names, teacher names/emails, and availability for coaching sessions.
4. Site leadership attends Orientation with teachers and supports them in the family consent collection process.
5. Provide coach with enrollment information for each classroom: child first names, last names, and dates of birth.
6. Receive and distribute LENA Room kits (one box per classroom) for use during the LENA Grow Sequence.



Preparing Technology

1. Provide a Windows computer and install LENA Hub software.
2. Designate on-site staff to complete the following weekly tasks:
 - Process and charge LENA devices (training will be provided). Return charged devices to classroom before next LENA Day.
 - Launder LENA vests and return to classroom before next LENA Day.
 - Print color copies of LENA reports (reports may be emailed by coaches in addition to printing).
 - Print (or share electronically) weekly family engagement resources for teachers to share with families.

During the Sequence

1. Follow Sequence Schedule agreed upon with **LENA Provider**. Ensure teacher Orientation, LENA Days, and coaching sessions occur as planned, and notify coach in the event a teacher is unavailable.
2. Ensure participating teachers have class coverage to attend the following sessions, ideally outside of the classroom (either in-person or virtually):
 - Teacher Orientation (1 hour)
 - Session 1 (1 hour)
 - Sessions 2-4 (30 minutes each)
 - Session 5 (1 hour)

Wrapping up

1. Return LENA classroom materials (other than the Teacher Guide and posters) at the end of the LENA Grow sequence. (Pre-paid shipping labels will be provided.)
2. Celebrate teachers' accomplishments!

LENA Provider signature

Site primary contact signature

Date

Date