



Project ERI (Early Reading Intervention)

Developing early reading skills in kindergarten children.

The first years of schooling are a critical window of opportunity to develop children's reading skills, which will be a foundation for all future learning. Faculty at the Center on Disability and Development have received four years of funding to examine the effects of different reading interventions and how to intensify instruction for children at risk of developing reading difficulties.

Project ERI involves researchers from Texas A&M University, the University of Connecticut and the University of Central Florida, who have partnered with school districts in their respective states to examine the efficacy, replicability and durability of the Early Reading Intervention.

Randomized field trials are in progress in three states involving more than 100 teachers and 400 kindergarten children. Schools represent a mixture of suburban, inner city and urban settings, and children come from demographically and ethnically diverse populations. Findings from the first year studies indicated that children most at risk of reading difficulties who received the Early Reading Intervention made greater gains on measures of letter names and sounds, phonemic awareness and word attack than students in children in typical practice classrooms. The project is in its third year and is currently examining how to make ERI more effective for students who do not show adequate reading growth in kindergarten. Data from the multi-state research project are currently being analyzed to determine effects and conditions of instruction that most benefit early reading development.

“The opportunity to participate in a field test for an educational program like ERI was an exciting experience. Besides the wonderful materials and support, we had the added bonus of clear statistical evidence to reinforce the results and benefits of the work we do with our children!”

— *Jan Canales*
ERI Teacher

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact: Dr. Deb Simmons

979.845.8050 | dsimmons@tamu.edu

<http://cdd.tamu.edu>