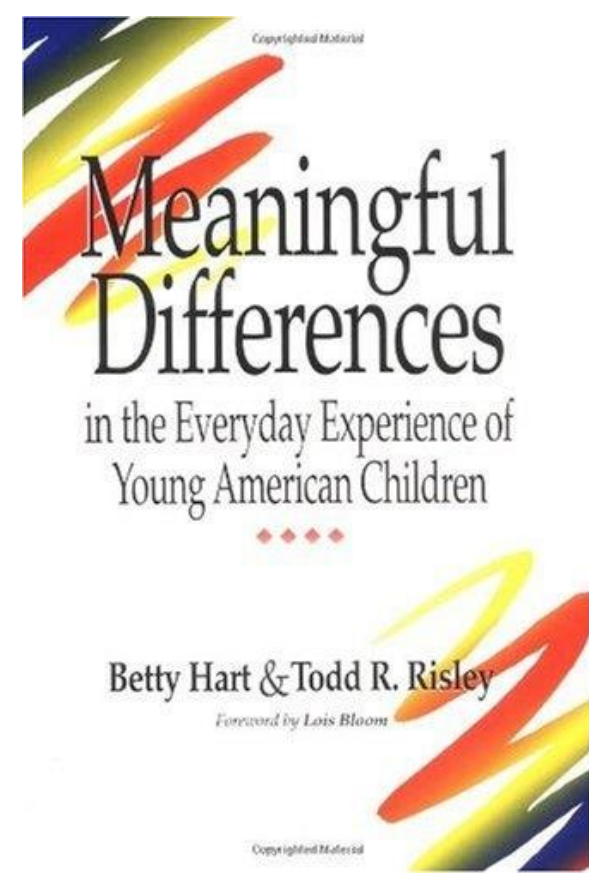


The Word Gap

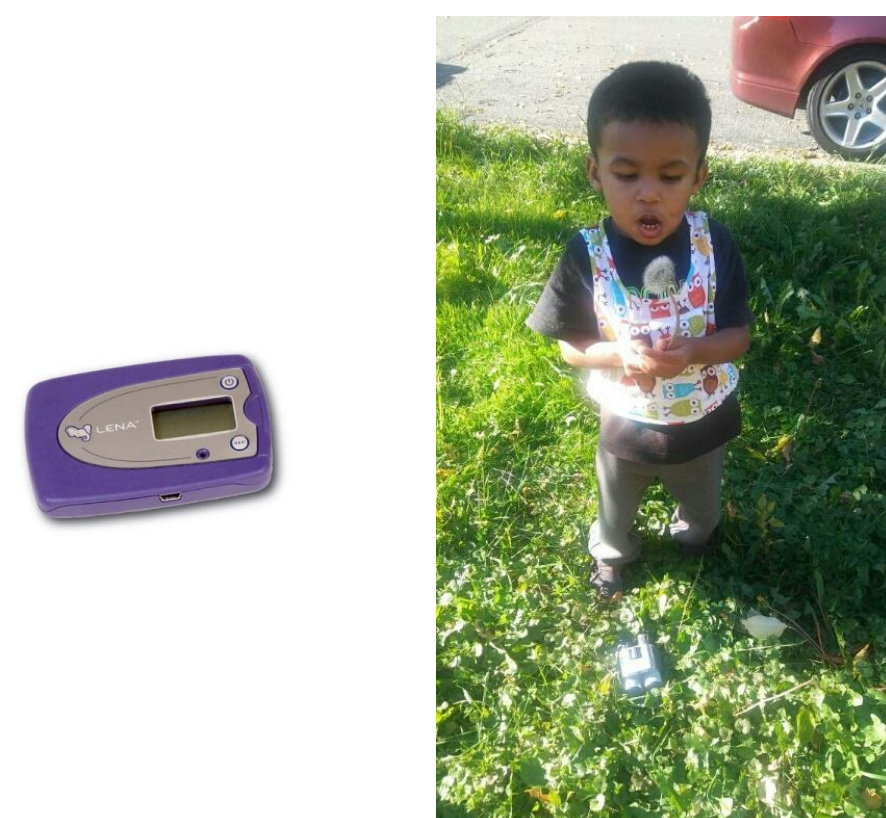


The number of words kids hear in early years varies greatly, leading to some kids hearing nearly 30 million fewer words by age three

LENA

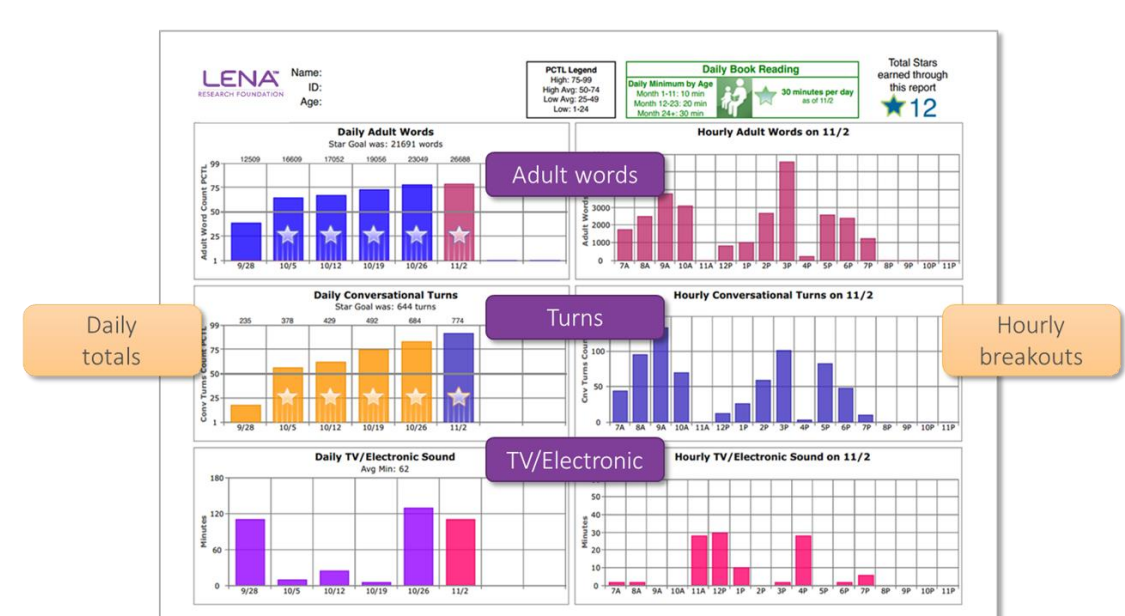
Language ENvironment Analysis

Developed a “language pedometer” that tallies the number of adult words spoken to a child in a day and the number of times an adult responds to something a child says and vice versa (conversational turns)

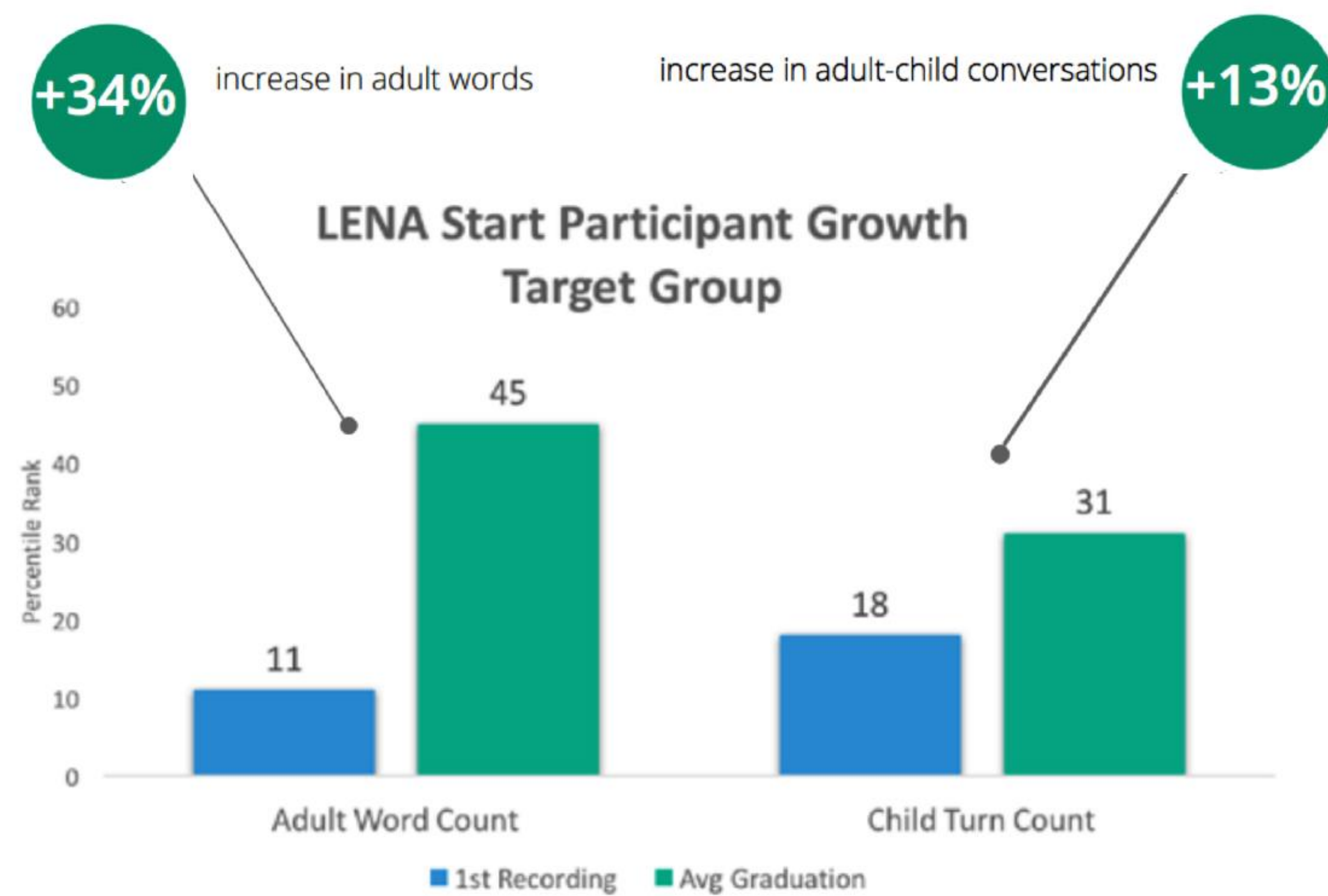


LENA Start

- 13-week parent education program in English and Spanish
- Simple, researched-based talking tips
- Weekly recordings and feedback reports
- Focus on positive parenting, following child’s lead, expanding “serves and returns”



Parent Behavior Change



Accelerated Language Growth



U of M Partners



Hub-Spoke Model

U of M

- Training
- Technical Assistance
- Support
- Materials

Community Partners

- Quality facilitators & locations
- Recruitment
- Knowledge of community
- Materials

Benefits

- Providing powerful and compelling feedback
- Seeing/documenting behavior change
- Detailed materials for facilitating classes
- Parents frequently experience other benefits of talking more with child

Challenges

- Communicating details of unique program/recruiting
- Addressing privacy concerns
- Busy families
- Fitting class into existing program schedules
- Managing expectations of ECFE parents
- Getting adept at processing and prepping recorders
- Working with unique parent groups

Future of Lena Start in MN

- Looking for new sites for 2018
- Initial funding runs out end of 2017
- Future funding options being explored and may include district contributions and/or joint fund-raising options



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