

Even Start Program

ARLINGTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
ARLINGTON, TEXAS

SCHOOL PROFILE

40 STUDENTS, GRADES K-6
100% Hispanic

LIGHTSPAN ACHIEVE NOW™ IMPLEMENTATION

- Family Homework Model
- Grades K-6, Began October 2002
- 100% Home Deployment
- Reading/Mathematics Focus

RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS

Lightspan Progress Tests

RESEARCH TIME FRAME

2002-03 School Year

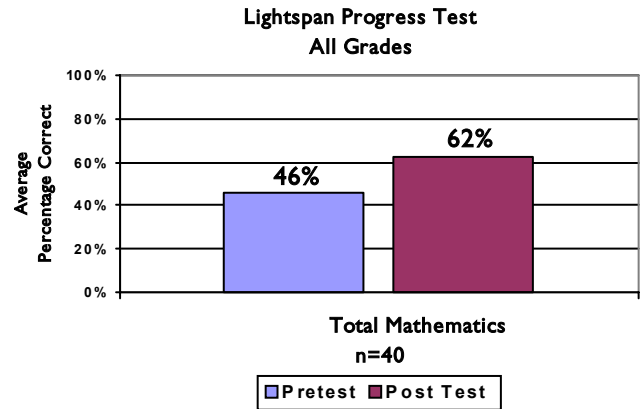
STUDENTS IN THE ARLINGTON EVEN START PROGRAM IMPROVE MATHEMATICS SCORES

DURING THE 2002-03 SCHOOL YEAR, STUDENTS AT THE ARLINGTON EVEN START PROGRAM IN GRADES KINDERGARTEN THROUGH SIX ACHIEVED GAINS IN OVERALL MATHEMATICS. COMPARISON OF LIGHTSPAN PRETEST AND POST-TEST TOTAL PERCENTAGE CORRECT SCORES REVEALED STUDENTS GAINED 16% ON AVERAGE IN OVERALL MATHEMATICS.

THE ARLINGTON EVEN START PROGRAM RECEIVED FUNDING TO PURCHASE LIGHTSPAN ACHIEVE NOW™ TO EXTEND LEARNING INTO THE HOMES OF PARTICIPATING FAMILIES. PARENTS AND STUDENTS IN THE PROGRAM CHECKED OUT LIGHTSPAN MATERIALS FOR THE ENTIRE SCHOOL YEAR. STUDENTS WERE GIVEN LIGHTSPAN ADVENTURES® THAT MET THEIR INDIVIDUAL NEEDS. PARENTS AND STUDENTS USED THE LIGHTSPAN MATERIALS A MINIMUM OF THIRTY MINUTES THREE TIMES WEEKLY. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT WAS MEASURED USING THE LIGHTSPAN PROGRESS TEST PRETEST AND POST-TEST SCORES.

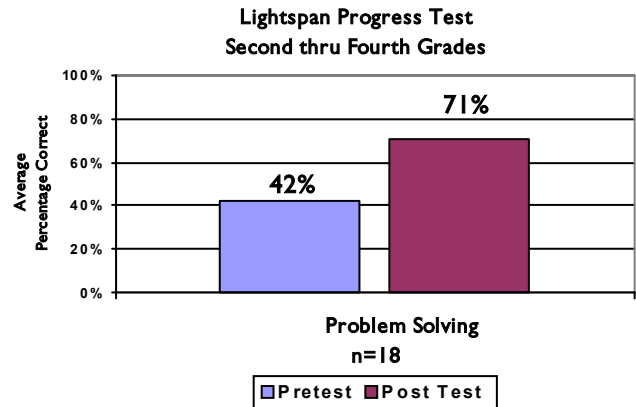
Participating Even Start students post gains in overall Mathematics

Students in kindergarten through sixth grades participating in the home deployment of Lightspan Achieve Now demonstrated a 16% improvement on average in overall Mathematics when pretest and post-test total percentage correct scores were compared using Lightspan Progress Tests.



Students in second- through fourth-grades show 29% gains in Problem Solving

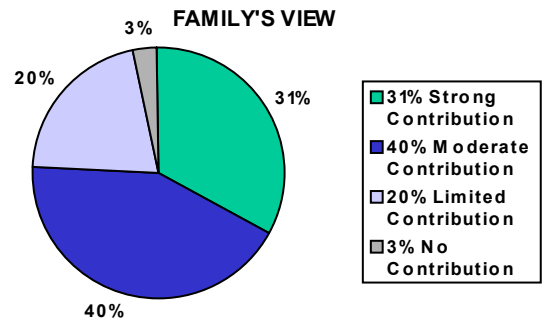
When total percentage correct scores were compared from the Lightspan Progress Pretest and Post Test, participating second- through fourth-grade students demonstrated an average overall gain of 29% gain in Problem Solving.



Families note improved student attitudes toward learning

Families witnessed an improvement in their children's attitudes toward learning while they participated in the Lightspan Achieve Now project during the 2002–03 school year. Results from Lightspan questionnaires received at the end of the school year revealed that 71% of families felt their children's interest in learning improved as a result of working with Lightspan Achieve Now.

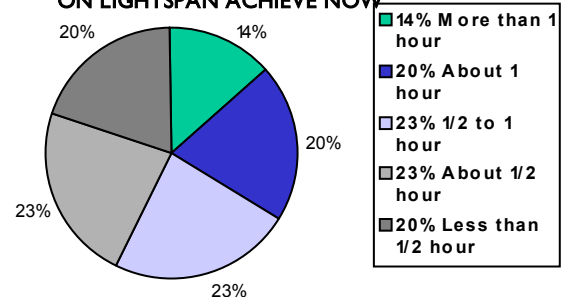
LIGHTSPAN ACHIEVE NOW'S IMPACT ON STUDENT'S ATTITUDE TOWARD LEARNING-



Families report spending ½ hour or more with their child on Lightspan Achieve Now

Families reported an increase in the amount of time they spent with their children on school work. Results from Lightspan questionnaires received at the conclusion of the school year revealed that 80% of families reported spending an average of 30 minutes, or more, per day working with their child/children on Lightspan Achieve Now at home.

AVERAGE AMOUNT OF TIME FAMILIES REPORTED WORKING WITH THEIR CHILD ON LIGHTSPAN ACHIEVE NOW



Even Start Program Background Summary

The mission of Arlington Independent School District (ISD) Even Start Family Literacy Program is to help break the cycle of poverty and illiteracy by offering educational services for low-income, undereducated parents and children as a family unit. The program focuses on both parents and children to encourage a partnership for learning and achievement. The Even Start program is funded by a four-year federal grant and services approximately forty families each year.

Families are eligible for the Arlington ISD Even Start program if they have a child younger than eight years old; live within the Arlington Independent School District; and have an adult who needs a General Education Degree (GED) to improve basic reading, writing, and math skills, or needs to learn English as a Second Language. In addition, the Even Start grant requires that programs serve families who are most in need. Families are selected based on the following criteria: 1) a parent with a low level of education, 2) low level of income, 3) number of children in the family, 4) low level of English language proficiency, and 5) participation in government assistance programs.

Implementation of Lightspan Achieve Now began in February of 2002. All families with children in kindergarten through sixth grades are eligible to participate in the home deployment of the Lightspan Achieve Now materials. Home deployment was the main focus; and all families were encouraged to participate. Students were given the pretest of the Lightspan Progress Test to determine their individual needs. A data analysis was conducted and an individual student plan was created to meet specific student needs. The Even Start staff sends home Lightspan Adventures® selected to meet identified needs of the individual student.

The Even Start staff attended training sessions for Lightspan Achieve Now and aligned the Lightspan Adventures CDs to meet student needs. Families attended scheduled family meetings to learn about Lightspan and help their child/children become successful. Participating families were encouraged to keep track of the amount of time spent on the Lightspan Adventures and exchange CDs on a weekly basis. At the completion of each Lightspan Adventure, students were required to complete the appropriate Lightspan Progress Check to measure learning.

Arlington Even Start would like to expand their implementation of Lightspan Achieve Now into the homes of every family during the entire school year. They would also like to integrate at least three stations into their adult education classes to allow more time for parents to spend using the Lightspan Adventures.



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