



# *Illinois Even Start Family Literacy Works!*

## **Even Start is Serving Economically and Educationally Disadvantaged Families**

In FY 07, 44 programs assisted 1292 families to participate in adult education, early childhood education, parent education and parent and child interactive literacy activities to improve the academic achievement of the children and parents.

- 80.5% of these families are at or below the Federal Poverty level
- 73% of the parents are unemployed
- 76% of the parents do not have a high school diploma or a GED
- 49% of the parents have not gone beyond the 9<sup>th</sup> grade
- 57% of the adults speak a language other than English as the primary language in the home
- 53% of these families speak Spanish as the primary language in the home.

## **Even Start Works for Children**

1939 children from 1292 families participated in Even Start programming. Performance measurement data for children who have been enrolled in an Even Start Family Literacy program for at least one month shows that children are improving their language literacy and reading skills, their school attendance, and their grade promotion.

- 92.3% of children, ages three to five, demonstrated continuous progress in language development and literacy for preparation to begin school;
- 98.7% of kindergarten students, 97.8% of first grade students, 97.9% of second grade students and 94.7% of third grade students, demonstrated progress in reading readiness or reading at or exceeding grade level;
- Third grade children in an Even Start program are reading on grade level at a higher rate (65.8%) than economically disadvantaged third graders as a whole (54.2%);
- 75% of children in kindergarten to third grade had higher attendance rates than the building grade K-8 attendance rate; and
- 98% of children in public school grades kindergarten to third grade were promoted to the next grade level.

## **Even Start Works for Adults**

1352 adults from 1292 families participated in adult education. Performance measurement data for adults who have been enrolled in an Even Start Family Literacy program shows that adults are increasing their own learning, gaining knowledge to help their children achieve success, and meeting their education-related and employment-related goals.

- 65.4% of participating adults who have completed at least 75 hours of Adult Basic Education or Adult Secondary Education instruction demonstrated test score gains at or above average on the Test for Adult Basic Education Reading, based upon their entry level scores;
- 65.2% of participating adults who have completed at least 75 hours of English as a Second Language instruction demonstrated test score gains at or above average on the Basic English Skills Test, based on their entry test level scores; and
- 88.3% of participating adults who have identified at least one education-related goal (e.g., pass the GED test) or one employment-related goal (e.g., enter into first job) attained at least one of their goals within a prescribed period of time.
- 61 adults earned their GED.
- 31 teen parents earned their high school diploma.
- 185 adults entered into employment, and 41 adults got a better job.

## **Even Start Works for Families**

Performance measurement data for families who have been enrolled in an Even Start Family Literacy program shows that families have books in their homes, read together, and attend family-school activities. Parents are working at home with their children on literacy skills, assisting their children in making transitions (e.g. pre-k to kindergarten) and becoming more involved with their children's schools.

- 96.4% of participating families attended two or more transition activities in the program year;
- 99.5% of participating families independently demonstrated one of the interactive literacy behaviors identified or learned in the program; and
- 95.4% of participating adults who have identified at least one goal related to family needs or community involvement attained at least one of their goals within a prescribed period of time.

*Even Start Creates a Foundation for Intergenerational Lifelong Learning!*