The Idaho Early Literacy Project: Where We've Been...and Where We're Headed!

We would like to thank Congressman Simpson! His generous support funded most of the projects from 2005-2011.

2005-2008: Over 38,000 new parents received *Every Child Ready to Read* booklets via hospitals. DVD's were also distributed. *Every Child Ready for Math* booklets were developed and disseminated. Created Spanish and English versions of both booklets.

June 2008: Partnered with the Stern Center for Language and Learning to bring the first *BUILDING BLOCKS FOR LITERACY*® class to Idaho.

October 2008-June 2009: Began offering two-part *BUILDING BLOCKS FOR LITERACY*® courses in the Treasure Valley to early educators at no cost. Trained 322 early educators and provided additional mentoring to 20 preschool teachers. Conducted a research study demonstrating positive student outcomes. Distributed approximately 9,000 *Every Child Ready to Read* booklets to parents and 2,600 children's books.

October 2009-June 2010: Offered *BUILDING BLOCKS FOR LITERACY*® courses statewide. Added more instructional materials. Trained an additional 536 teachers. Distributed another 10,400 Every Child Ready to Read booklets to parents and 3,660 children's books. The free online *BUILDING BLOCKS FOR LITERACY*® course was developed by the Stern Center (www.buildingblocksforliteracy.org). A second research study showed even greater student outcomes including increased IRI scores.

September 2010: Hosted a free early literacy conference at BSU with 100 attendees. Four national speakers presented early literacy research.

June 2010-June 2011: Over 100 early educators received the *BUILDING BLOCKS FOR LITERACY*® training online at no cost. Developed the *Every Child Ready for Math* course and offered this two-part class to over 350 early educators all over Idaho at no cost (along with free math materials). Partnered with the Initiative for Developing Mathematical Thinking at BSU to conduct a research study demonstrating positive student outcomes in mathematics. Article about the study was published in the Early Childhood Education Journal.

June 2011-December 2011: Developed a free online *Every Child Ready for Math* course (www.LPLearningCenter.org).

August 2011- present: Partnered with United Way and the YMCA to provide training in early literacy and mathematics instruction to the P16 preschool teachers. Developed a lesson planning template tool to support implementation of developmentally appropriate, research-based literacy and mathematics activities.

September 2011-June 2012: Developed a second *BUILDING BLOCKS FOR LITERACY*® course designed to help identify and support struggling learners. Piloted the course with Head Start teachers and daycare providers. A research study demonstrated positive student outcomes for at-risk children.

January 2012-current:

- Developing an early literacy and math "toolkit" to help early educators maximize every minute! Piloting the toolkit with YMCA teachers and P16 teachers. Developing a training that will accompany the toolkit.
- Providing lesson planning support to more YMCA preschool teachers.
- Translating the online Every Child Ready for Math course into Spanish.
- Working with Head Start teachers and parents in Blaine County to increase early math skills.
- Exploring funding sources to further support the Idaho Early Literacy Project and the implementation of research-based practices in early literacy and mathematics.