



Exceptional Coaching for Language and Literacy (ExCELL) is a research-based, year-long, online professional development (PD) program for preschool, kindergarten, and 1st grade teachers and assistant teachers.

Putting the Science of Early Language Development into Practice



Research has identified instructional strategies that improve the language and early literacy skills of all young children, including emerging multilingual learners. Yet, most teachers do not use these evidence-based strategies in their classrooms. ExCELL PD bridges the research-to-practice gap through highly effective teacher training.

- Lead and assistant teachers complete one module per month to learn evidence-based instructional strategies.
- After each module, teachers practice the strategies in their classrooms and receive feedback from their coach.
- Teachers use a library of instructional resources to support their implementation of the strategies.

Training Teachers in Transformative Practices



Proven Results

Randomized controlled trials (RCTs) of ExCELL (Wasik & Hindman, 2011; Wasik, Bond, & Hindman, 2006) and of components of ExCELL (Wasik & Hindman, 2020) were conducted in preschools serving high-poverty, diverse populations. The results are summarized below.

✓ Improves teacher practice

- Teachers made significant gains in **classroom quality** (effect size: 1.00 on CLASS Instructional Support domain).
- Teachers increased their use of key **instructional strategies** for early literacy, including:
 - defining words (effect size: 1.50)
 - asking open-ended questions (effect size: 1.60).

✓ Improves student outcomes

- Children learned 90% of the **vocabulary words** taught in the classroom.
- Children made large gains (effect size = .77) on the Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test, meaning that children **learned words that were not explicitly taught**.
- Gains were observed for all children, including **emerging multilingual learners (EMLs)** and those with **disabilities**.

✓ Teachers recognize the impact

Teachers rated* ExCELL PD as **very effective** in:

- Content
- Coaching
- Support of classroom instruction
- Support of EMLs' language skills
- Materials (modules, vocabulary cards, reading guides, etc.).

*2019-20 & 2021-22 SY surveys of NYC DOE teachers rating components of ExCELL on scale of 1 (Not Effective) to 5 (Extremely Effective)