For More Information

Language and Reading Research Consortium

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This research study is funded by the Department of Education Institute of Education Sciences.
Reading comprehension is a challenge to many children in the United States. In fact, 1 out of 3 fourth-graders and 1 out of 4 eighth-graders struggle to comprehend what they read; in turn, this poses a threat to their future education and employment success.

The U.S. Department of Education recognizes that we must learn much more about reading comprehension. In 2010, it invested $100,000,000 in the Reading for Understanding (RFU) consortium to address such questions as:

1. How does reading comprehension develop?
2. Why do so many children struggle to comprehend what they read?
3. How can we improve comprehension instruction across the grades?

The LARRC Reading For Understanding Study

The Language and Reading Research Consortium (LARRC) is a multi-university RFU consortium of 14 researchers at five universities:

- The Ohio State University (OSU)
- University of Kansas (KU)
- Arizona State University (ASU)
- University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL)
- Lancaster University (LU in the UK)

Researchers leading this project include: Laura Justice, Steve Petrill, Shayne Piasta, Ann O’Connell, and Richard Lomax (OSU); Hugh Catts, Mindy Bridges, and Diane Nielson (KU); Shelley Gray and Adelaida Restrepo (ASU); Tiffany Hogan, Ron Nelson, and Jim Bovaird (UNL); and Kate Cain (LU).

This consortium is addressing these questions using a nationally representative sample of 1,200 children followed longitudinally over 5 years, coupled with teaching trials and efficacy studies implemented in approximately 300 preschool to grade-three classrooms. In addition, an English Language Learner (ELL) study is being conducted at the ASU site to focus intensively on reading comprehension among ELLs.

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