



ECLIPSE

Early Childhood Literacy Intervention Program. Services and Evaluation



What is ECLIPSE?

Our goal in ECLIPSE is to close the gap between children of low-income families and others, in the area of language and literacy so they are better prepared to enter school.



- Estimates vary by state, but anywhere from 20% to 49% of children enter school ill-prepared for success (Kaufman Foundation, Set for Success, 2003).

- By the time they are in first grade, children from low-income communities have acquired 5,000 word vocabularies, compared with 20,000 word vocabularies of children from more affluent families. (Meaningful Differences in the Everyday Experience of Young American Children; 1995).

- The Early Childhood Literacy Intervention Program, Services, and Evaluation (ECLIPSE) fills an important need by providing one-on-one mentoring for children who ordinarily have little, or no, opportunity to receive personal, specialized attention.



ECLIPSE's model focuses on:

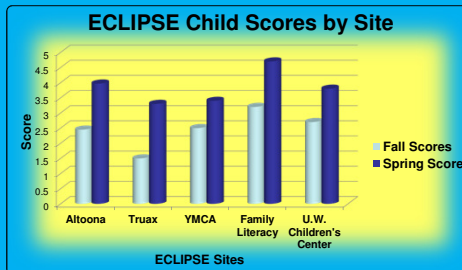
- Enhancing the learning experiences of young children from low-income communities.
- Providing meaningful opportunities for parents to become involved in their child's learning.
- Supporting the development of college students as leaders in the field of education and civic engagement.
- Providing support to the parents and the Head Start Centers for additional programming that will help to address the many and complex needs of low-income families and the programs that serve them.



Child Progression

In ECLIPSE's first year, children made noticeable gains in their reading, writing, math, and social skills.

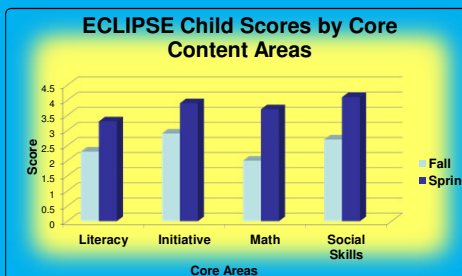
- These skills are measured through the use of an end-of-the-year evaluation. This evaluation takes these factors into consideration using pre and post-test evaluations.
 - A child's recognition of words, letters, and their sounds.
 - A child's ability to write words, numbers, and letters.
 - A child's ability to recognize differences in objects including size and quantity.
 - A child's ability to interact with peers and adults.



- Averages from our five ECLIPSE sites (listed above) showed an improvement of at least 20 percent or higher between the fall and spring evaluation scores.
 - At our Truax site, the average improvement climbed to 35 percent.

By content area, ECLIPSE children improved:

- 20 percent in their literacy skills
- 20 percent in their ability to initiate actions
- 34 percent in their math skills
- 28 percent in their social skills



Although the scores from the ECLIPSE group ($M = 1.32$, $SD = .49$) trended higher than the scores from the control group ($M = 1.26$, $SD = .65$), the difference was not statistically significant, $t(83) = -.55$, $p = 0.58$.

Corp Member Success

The benefits of ECLIPSE reach outside the walls of the classroom.



- As participants of the AmeriCorps program, ECLIPSE members participated in volunteer services for their community.



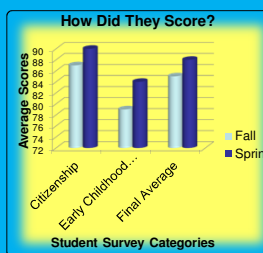
- ECLIPSE participated or conducted numerous volunteer events in the Eau Claire area.
- "Tidy Up the Town" (left) took place in October where ECLIPSE corps members volunteered their time towards yard work for those less capable.

- These volunteer efforts have led to better community, and cultural awareness for our corps members.



"Before working at ECLIPSE I had never realized how much of a difference I could make by connecting with my community. It could not be more rewarding to work with children from low income families as well as those from a different culture. Recognizing a need in our community and helping to meet it is something I've become very compassionate about in my 3 years with ECLIPSE..."

-Caitlyn Wagner Team Leader 2010-2011



- Community efforts as well as child interactions has influenced ECLIPSE members in a positive fashion.

- In the fall and spring semesters, ECLIPSE members take a survey that rates their knowledge and ability in the areas of citizenship and early childhood practices.

- The results demonstrated that ECLIPSE members not only improved in these categories from the fall to spring semesters; but they also met a proficiency level of over 80% in their scores.

How has this affected our corps members?

- By the spring semester, fifteen percent of corps members had changed their college path to a major that related directly to human services.

