

LDOE Family Engagement Lab Pilot Opportunity

Family Engagement Lab (FEL) is a national nonprofit organization that increases student learning at home through FASTalk, a text-based tool for teachers that sends grade-level academic, social and emotional learning tips by text message in the family's home language.

Through an innovative partnership with the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE), FASTalk has been used by districts across Louisiana to engage families in learning since 2018.

Pilot Overview

In 2020-2021, LDOE and FEL will support preschool teachers and parents at participating pilot sites to increase parental awareness and understanding of their child's development and progress.

Families of 3- and 4- year old students will receive weekly text messages prompting regular engagement and support around critical cognitive, social and emotional, language/communication, and movement/physical developmental milestones.

FASTalk implements effective school-home partnerships by:



SAVING TEACHER TIME

High quality parent-child activities are sent automatically to families. No need to hit "send."



REACHING ALL PARENTS

FASTalk is text message-based, and does not need WiFi or a smartphone. 100+ languages and 2-way messaging supported to reach families equitably.



BUILDING CAPACITY

Messages build parents' understanding of milestones with age-appropriate activities aligned to CDC's Learn the Signs, Act Early resources.

SAMPLE MESSAGES

3-year-olds love to play "make believe" with dolls, animals, or people. As you play, ask your child questions such as, "What happens next?"

Pretend play can also help your child understand reading! Choose a favorite part from a book and have your child act it out.

Did you get a chance to do some pretend play with your child this week?
Reply:
1: Yes
2: Not yet

CONTACT US

School systems interested in participating in the pilot and/or learning more about FASTalk should contact hannah@fastalk.org or brittany.braun@la.gov.