

T. L. C.

Teaching Literacy Competence

A Guide for Parents



Regional School District No. 6

WHAT IS T.L.C.?

T.L.C. is an early intervention program for first graders who are experiencing difficulty in reading. T.L.C. has been successfully implemented in Region 6 since 1991. In T.L.C. children receive an individual program tailored to their needs and specifically designed to accelerate their progress in reading and writing. The immediate goal is to assist children to read at the average level of their first grade peers. The long-term goal is that children continue to progress in reading through their regular class instruction and their independent reading.

WHAT OCCURS DURING A T.L.C. LESSON?

Each T.L.C. lesson includes:

- Reading a familiar story, which provides opportunities to practice skills, engage in fluent reading, and problem-solve challenges.
- Reading a book that was new to the child the previous day enables the teacher to record the child's independent performance and to use this record to determine new learning.
- Working with magnetic letters and words to construct words or engage in word analysis.

- Writing a story in his or her writing book, with teacher support in word construction and analysis.
- Re-assembling his or her cut-up story, practicing reading skills on personal text.
- Reading a new book, selected to support learning through problem-solving challenges.

HOW OFTEN WILL MY CHILD RECEIVE T.L.C. INSTRUCTION?

Children are provided one-to-one planned lessons for 45 minutes each day. This one-to-one instruction allows for the teacher's interactive support of reading and writing. This results in a different program for each child, proceeding according to each child's needs.

WHO PROVIDES T.L.C. INSTRUCTION?

To implement T.L.C., staff members receive specialized training from the T.L.C. Coordinator. Teachers learn to use techniques and strategies for conducting lessons. Teachers also receive assistance and guidance from the Coordinator during student lessons. The Coordinator diagnoses strengths and needs, instructs students, and plans the child's program as determined by his or her performance.

WILL MY CHILD STILL RECEIVE REGULAR READING INSTRUCTION IN THE CLASSROOM?

T.L.C. instruction is provided in addition to regular classroom instruction. It is "something extra". Your child will receive T.L.C. instruction separately from classroom instruction, but will

continue in his or her regular program. The classroom teachers in Region 6 have received training in helping the child transfer his or her learning from the T.L.C. program.

HOW WAS MY CHILD SELECTED FOR T.L.C.?

Children are selected for T.L.C. using Kindergarten and First Grade teacher assessments and the results of a diagnostic survey administered by the T.L.C. Coordinator. The survey is a set of standard measures of early reading and writing.

WHAT CAN I DO AT HOME TO HELP MY CHILD?

Read to your child every day.

Your child will bring home a book each day from T.L.C. to read to you. This reading time is to be enjoyable and relaxed, a time for you to listen and give encouragement. Your child may also read this book to others after reading it to you.

Your child will also bring home a cut-up sentence pasted onto a piece of newsprint paper. Your child will read the sentence to you and then illustrate it.

In addition, you and members of your family can model reading and writing for your child as you read newspapers, magazines, and books or write lists, cards, or bills. Consider purchasing books at gift-giving times and take regular trips to the public library. Have writing materials available for your child's use, encourage their attempts, and ask them to read their writing to you. Notice print around you (traffic signs, billboards, etc.) and share the joy of reading!

