



Reading and Talking Together

Promoting Research-Based Practice in Parent-Child Interactive Literacy Activities

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Barbara Wasik, Ph.D. is a professor in the School of Education, a fellow at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute (FPG) and director of The Center for Home Visiting. Throughout her career, Dr. Wasik has conducted extensive research in early childhood and elementary classrooms to promote children's academic competence. She has developed numerous assessment instruments, including classroom observation codes, problem-solving scales, and classroom environment scales. With her colleagues at FPG in the late 1970s and 1980s, Dr. Wasik conducted Project CARE (Carolina Approach to Responsive Education), a study of the effects of center-based child care and home-based interventions on children's school success.

During the 1980s, Dr. Wasik was co-director for curriculum development in the Infant Health and Development Program, a national study focused on the development of low birth weight infants. In 1996, Dr. Wasik established and became founding director of The Center for Home Visiting at UNC-Chapel Hill, a center which seeks to advance research, professional education and services in the field of home visiting through collaborative efforts with researchers, educators, evaluators, trainers, practitioners and policy makers. More recently, she has focused her attention on family literacy programs that include early childhood education, parenting education, home visiting, and adult literacy. In her most recently funded investigation, Partners for Literacy, a 3-year, \$3.5 million study, Dr. Wasik and her colleague, Joseph Sparling, a scientist at FPG, are developing a family literacy intervention for preschool children and their parents in Even Start Family Literacy Programs.

In addition to making substantial contributions through teaching, research and administration, Dr. Wasik has participated on many national and international boards and committees, including the National Academy of Science Committee on Early Childhood Pedagogy. Her numerous honors and awards include recognition as a fellow in four separate divisions of the American Psychological Association. She was president of the North Carolina Psychological Association from 1988-89 and has served as chair of the Board of Educational Affairs of the American Psychological Association.