



Reading and Talking Together

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

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Oscar A. Barbarin, Ph.D. is the L. Richardson and Emily Preyer Bicentennial Distinguished Professor for Strengthening Families at the University of North Carolina School of Social Work. He is also a Senior Investigator at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Center. Dr. Barbarin's professional interests and expertise are in the areas of African American children and families, family and preschool interventions, children's health and mental health, and the black-white achievement gap. As Principal Investigator of *Strengthening Literacy Practices in African American Families*, he is examining the effects of an intervention on the family literacy practices of a cohort of low-income families with children in early education programs in North Carolina. The evaluation of the pilot program included pre-post observations of parents reading with their children, direct child assessments, and extensive parental feedback on the program.

Dr. Barbarin has also initiated numerous studies and written extensively on the effects of poverty, violence and family life on children's learning and school success. His efforts have also centered on classroom quality and how teachers' and parents' practices contribute to the quality of the language development of children from birth to age five. Dr. Barbarin is involved in a longitudinal study of the socio-emotional development of South African children. He has trained graduate and undergraduate students at both the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.