



Reading and Talking Together

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

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Susan H. Landry, Ph.D. is a Developmental Psychologist and the Michael Matthew Knight Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHSC-H). She is the Chief of the Division of Developmental Pediatrics and the Director of the Center for Improving the Readiness of Children for Learning and Education (CIRCLE) in the Department of Pediatrics.

The Center consists of approximately 50 staff in the research, clinical, and educational areas. Her activities involve conducting numerous research projects and training activities related to the goal of promoting quality learning environments for young children. The Center's large scale parenting and early education classroom projects are carried out across Texas and in communities in many other states. This and other projects place a special emphasis on the effects of different aspects of caregiving on children's development and ways to promote school readiness. A large research database on early childhood has been developed from Dr. Landry's numerous research programs supported by the National Institutes of Child Health and Development (NICHD), The Institute for Education Sciences (DOE), The U.S. Department of Education, and the Texas Education Agency. These include longitudinal evaluations of biological and environmental influences on children's development from infancy through elementary school age years. More than 70 peer-reviewed publications and over a dozen chapters describe the findings of these research studies.

The Center is currently involved in using the knowledge gained from years of studying young children to help promote the national goals of early childhood literacy initiatives in Even Start, Head Start, and Child Care settings. Evaluations of these programs show significant gains in classroom quality and children's skill development. Dr. Landry has been a featured speaker at Laura Bush's White House Summit and mini White House Summits held across the United States discussing cognitive development in young children.