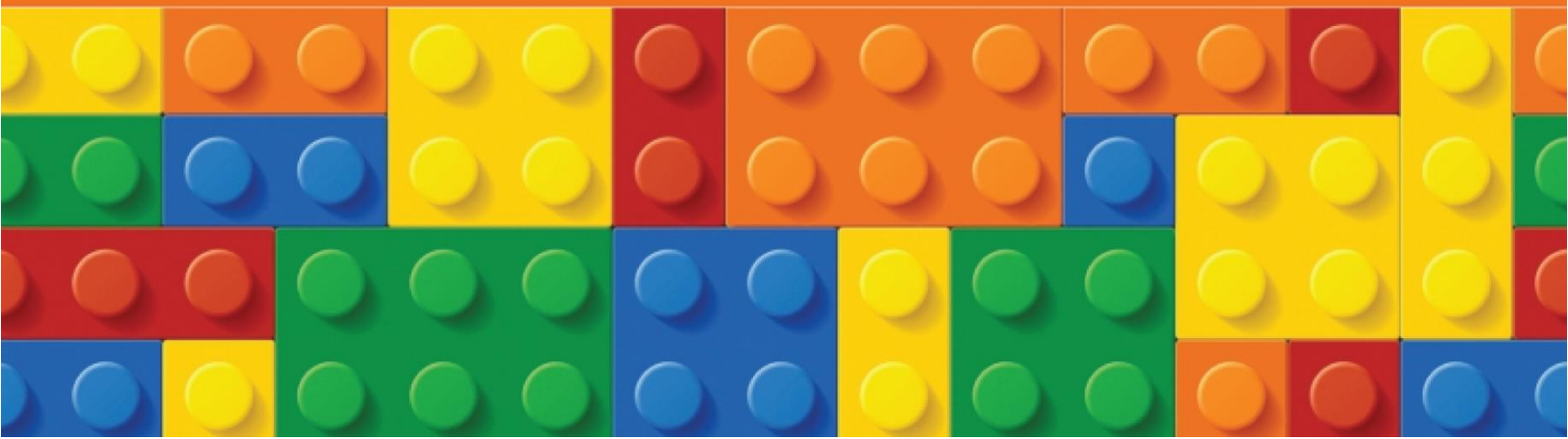


Mississippi Building Blocks[©]



The Mississippi Building Blocks Intervention

- Executive Summary



The Mississippi Building Blocks Intervention

Mississippi Building Blocks (MBB) is an ambitious multifaceted program, which recently concluded its sixth year of working with pre-kindergarten programs across Mississippi. The program was founded in 2008 with the sponsorship of a number of Mississippi businesses and foundations, and the recognition that the high poverty rate of Mississippi families leaves a large percentage of young children in the state unprepared for kindergarten at age 5. Since its inception, MBB's primary goal has been to improve young children's school readiness. The organization does this by sponsoring comprehensive early learning services for approximately 25 individual early learning programs for one full academic year. The MBB intervention includes individualized coaching for all of the early childhood teachers in each center; over \$3,250 worth of age-appropriate classroom enhancements in each classroom, including classroom equipment and learning materials; business, leadership, and management advising to preschool directors; and programming to improve parent involvement in children's learning. The MBB program is underpinned by a commitment to the importance of teacher best practices. Coaches spend many hours with early childhood teachers over an entire school year encouraging them and training them to fully and faithfully implement a comprehensive literacy and mathematics curriculum.

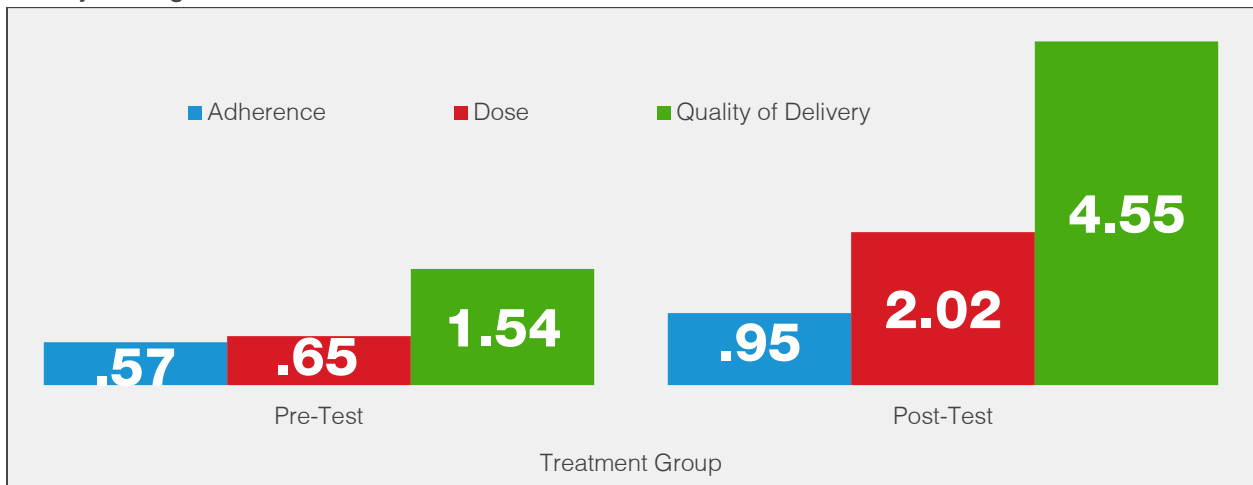
Several assessment tools were used to capture characteristics of the classroom environment and of individual children, including: the Early Language & Literacy Classroom Environment (ELLCO) Pre-K Instrument, the Test of Preschool Early Literacy (TOPEL), the Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA), and the Woodcock Johnson III-10, Applied Problems. Other unique assessment tools, including a measurement of teacher fidelity and of children's mastery of print concepts, were employed to supplement the goals and expectations of MBB. This year MBB had 18 treatment centers and 9 control centers were used in this year's program. NSPARC assessed MBB program by 6 well trained and experienced assessors.

Major Findings

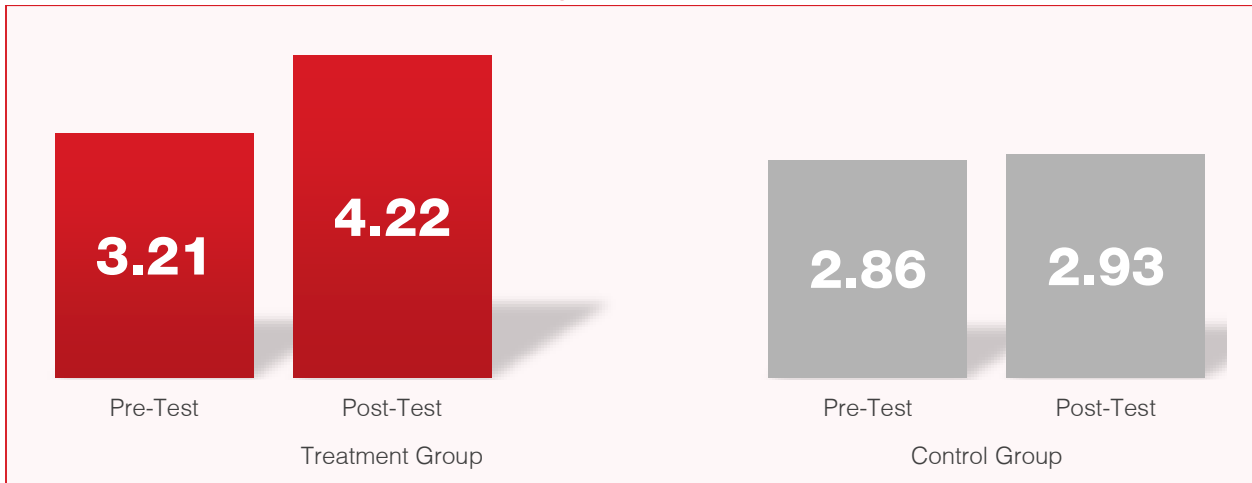
- Overall quality of the classroom environment significantly impacts a child’s language development and literacy skills.
- Effective coaching contributes significantly to the improvement of the overall literacy skills and math skills.
- Appropriate interventions significantly impact the ability of a child to master print concepts and print knowledge.

In sum, MBB has consistently proven to be an effective strategy for improving the quality of early learning in different childcare environments. Its emphasis on literacy has now spilled over into other centers and has improved the awareness and the importance of investing in early care and learning. This is supported by the fact that the differences in the improvement of literacy skills between the centers that received MBB interventions and those that do not has declined over time. Effective coaching is an ideal strategy for overcoming the higher demand for highly qualified early childhood teachers across private childcare providers in the state. MBB is a framework that can provide the blueprint for a coordinated approach to promote coaching as a strategy to improve the quality of early care and early learning interventions.

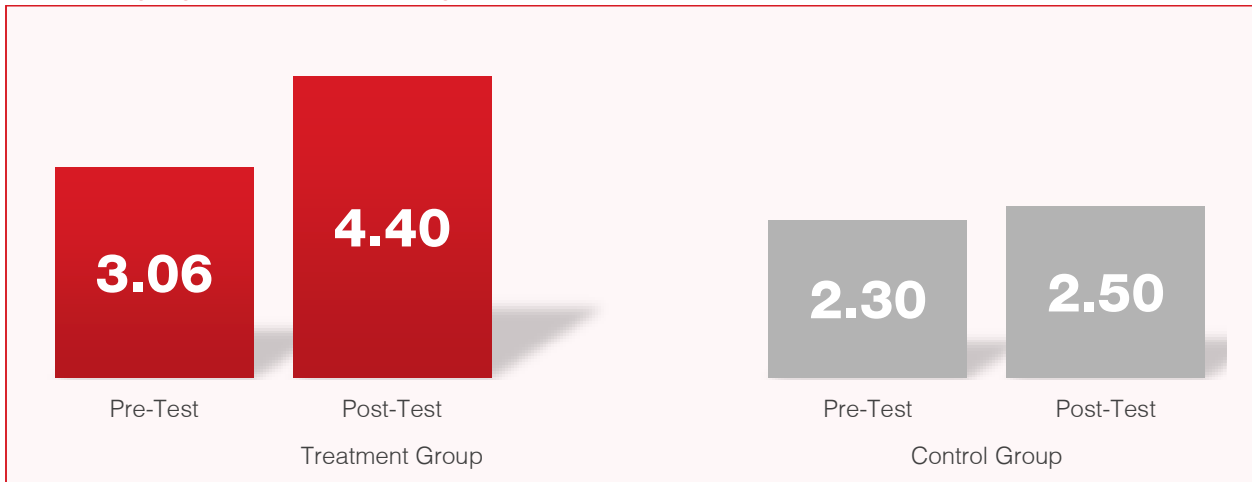
Fidelity Average Scores



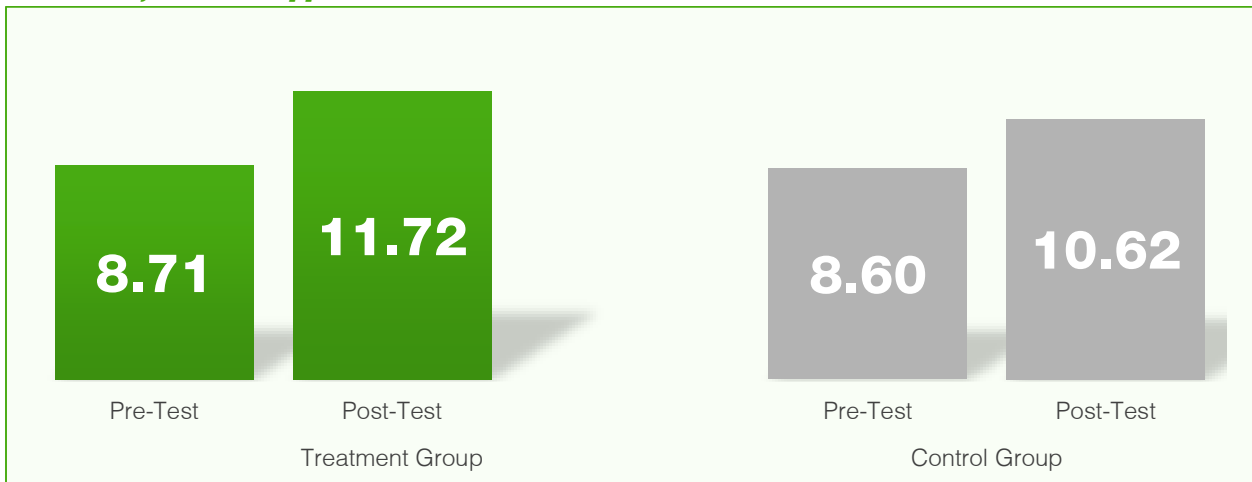
ELLCO General Classroom Environment Average Subscale Scores



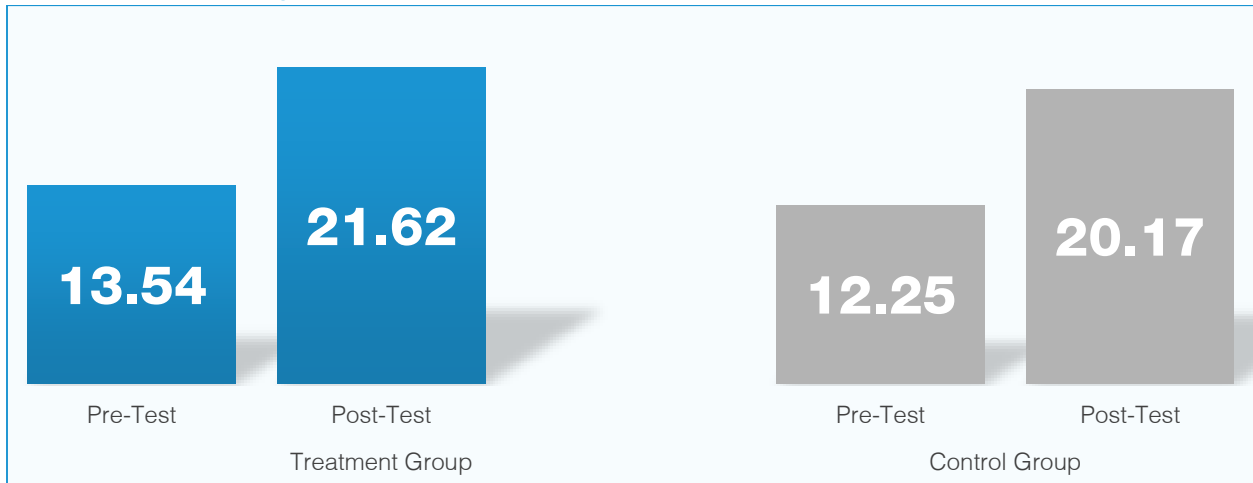
ELLCO Language and Literacy Average Subscale Scores



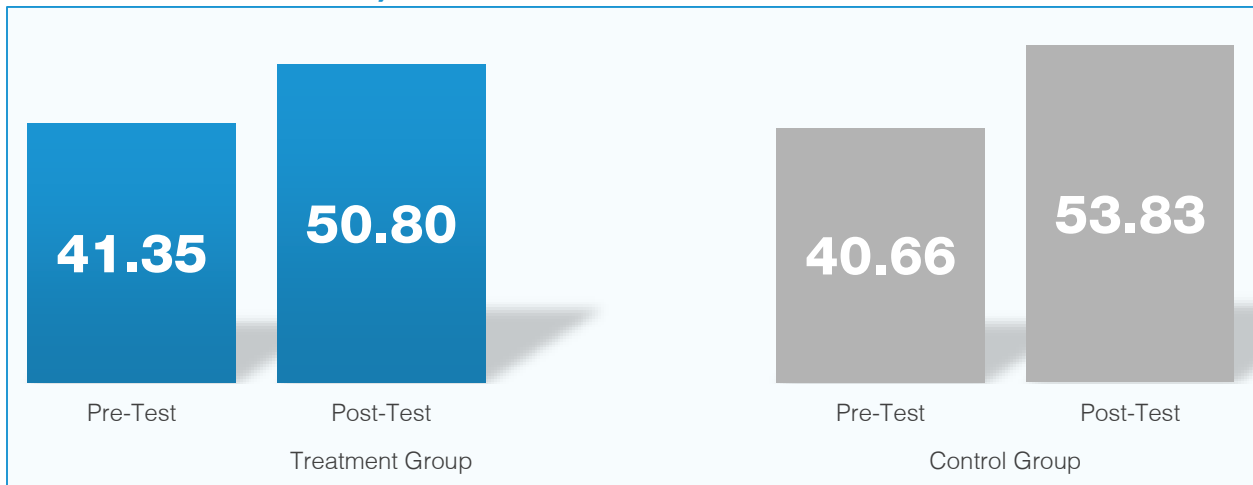
Woodcock-Johnson III Applied Problems Raw Score Subscale



TOPEL—Print Knowledge Raw Score Subscale



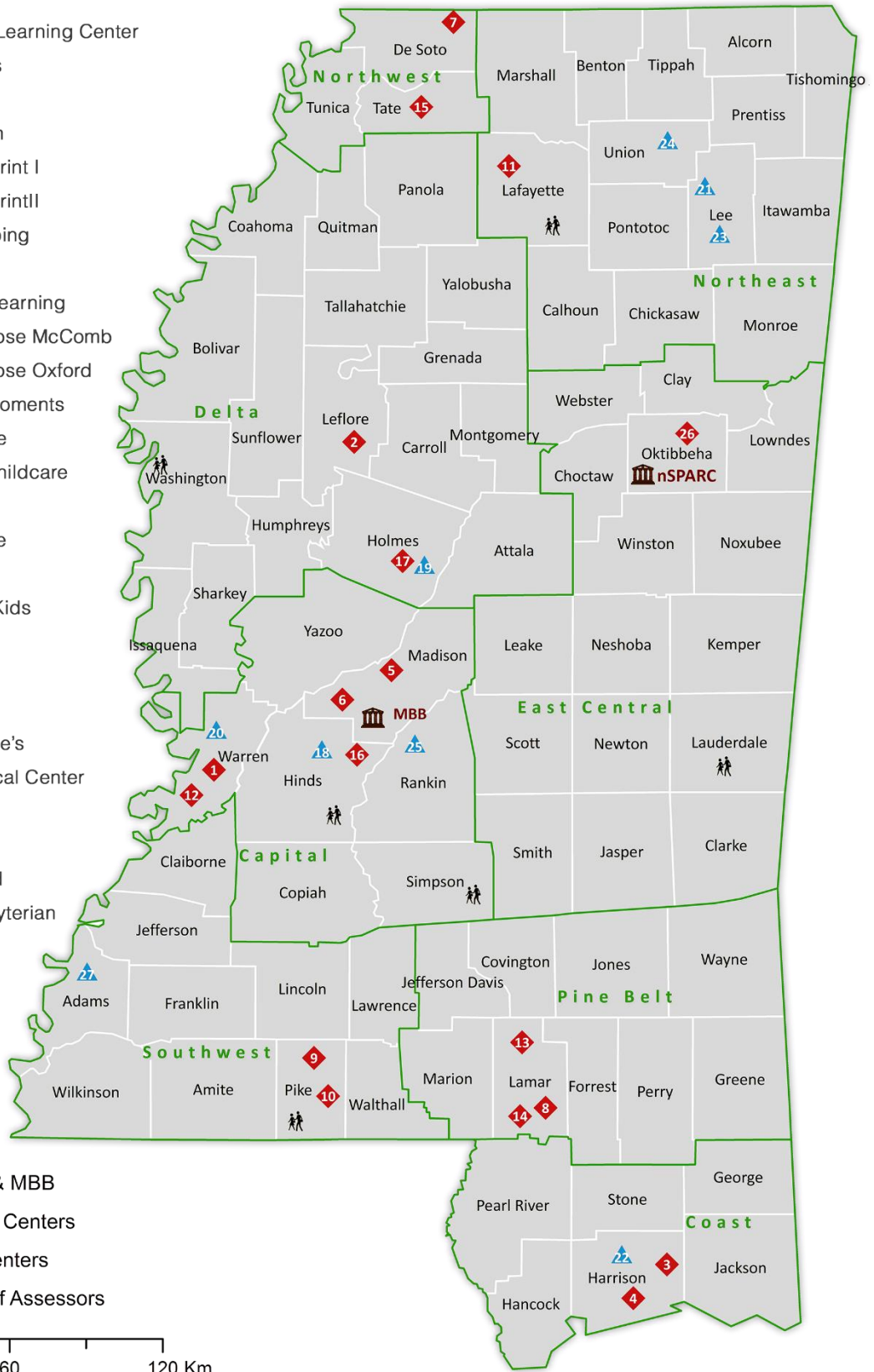
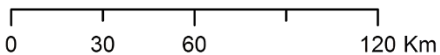
TOPEL—Definitional Vocabulary Raw Score Subscale

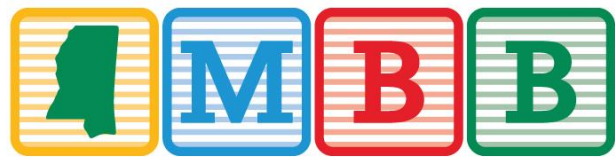


MBB Sixth Year Intervention & Control Centers

- ◆ 1 Children's Learning Center
- ◆ 2 Judy's Kids
- ◆ 3 Kids Quest
- ◆ 4 Kinderlearn
- ◆ 5 Little Footprint I
- ◆ 6 Little FootprintII
- ◆ 7 Little Stepping
- ◆ 8 M&M
- ◆ 9 McComb Learning
- ◆ 10 Mother Goose McComb
- ◆ 11 Mother Goose Oxford
- ◆ 12 Precious Moments
- ◆ 13 River of Life
- ◆ 14 Rodgers Childcare
- ◆ 15 Staryhorn
- ◆ 16 The Privette
- ◆ 17 Wee Care
- ▲ 18 Careative Kids
- ▲ 19 Genesis
- ▲ 20 Kiddie
- ▲ 21 Kid's World
- ▲ 22 Little People's
- ▲ 23 NMS Medical Center
- ▲ 24 Rainbow
- ▲ 25 True Vine
- ◆ 26 First United
- ▲ 27 First Presbyterian

- 🏛️ nSPARC & MBB
- ◆ Treatment Centers
- ▲ Control Centers
- 🚶 Location of Assessors





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