

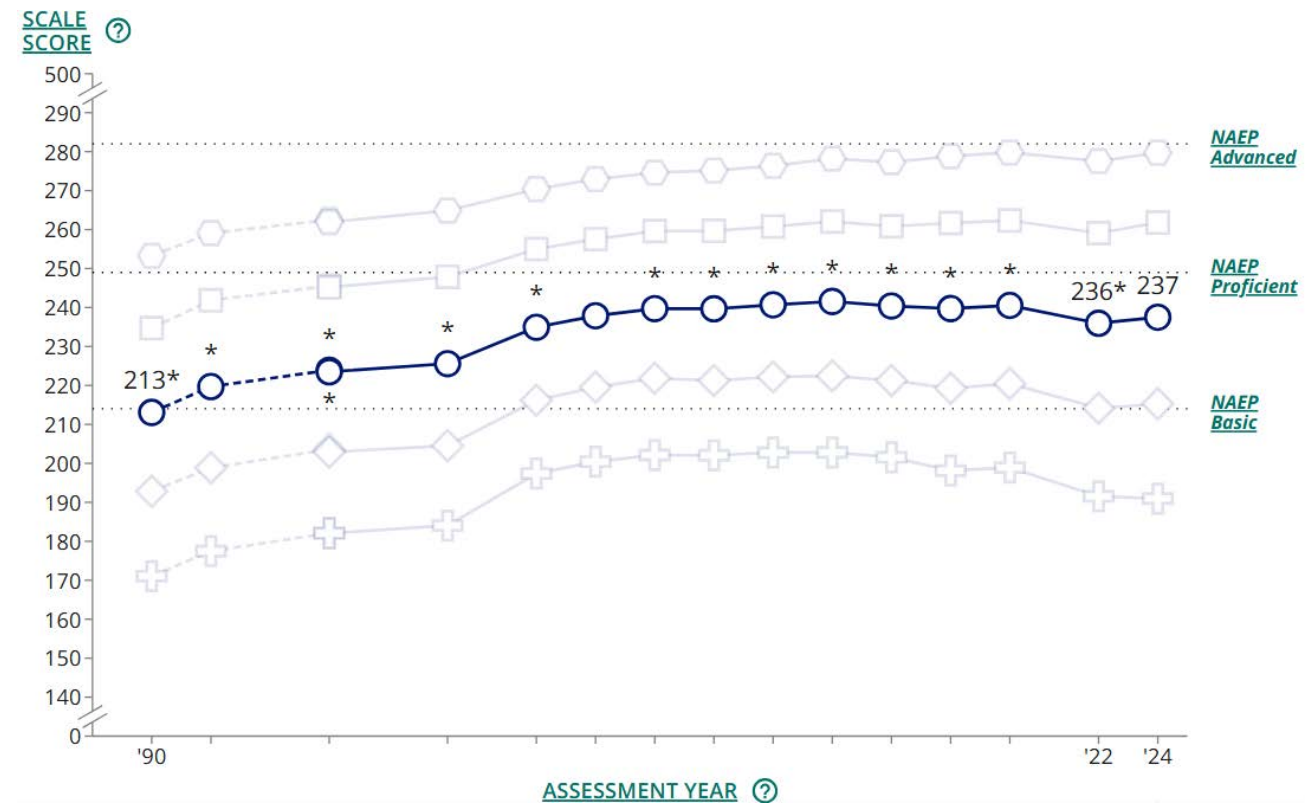
Bringing the *science of learning* to classrooms in Oregon



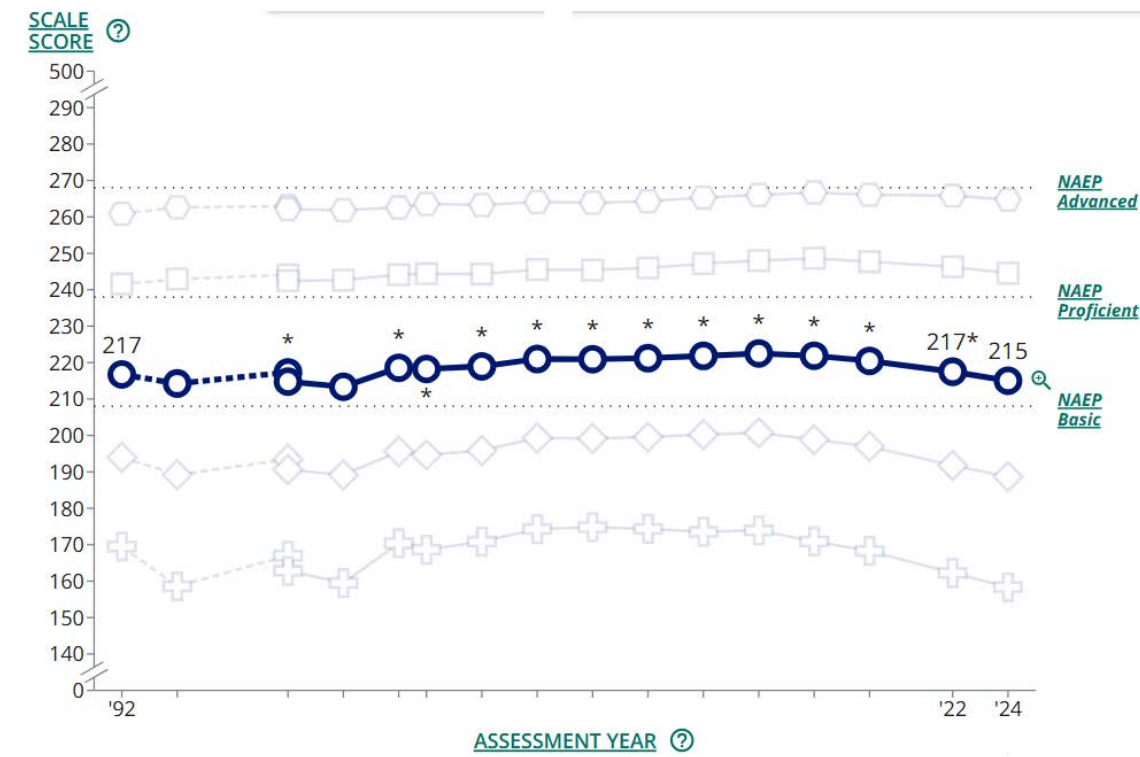
Kathy Hirsh-Pasek, Ph.D.
Temple University
The Brookings Institution

Soobin Oh
Teaching Preschool Partners
Oregon

Decades of national assessment data show limited growth, pre and post pandemic

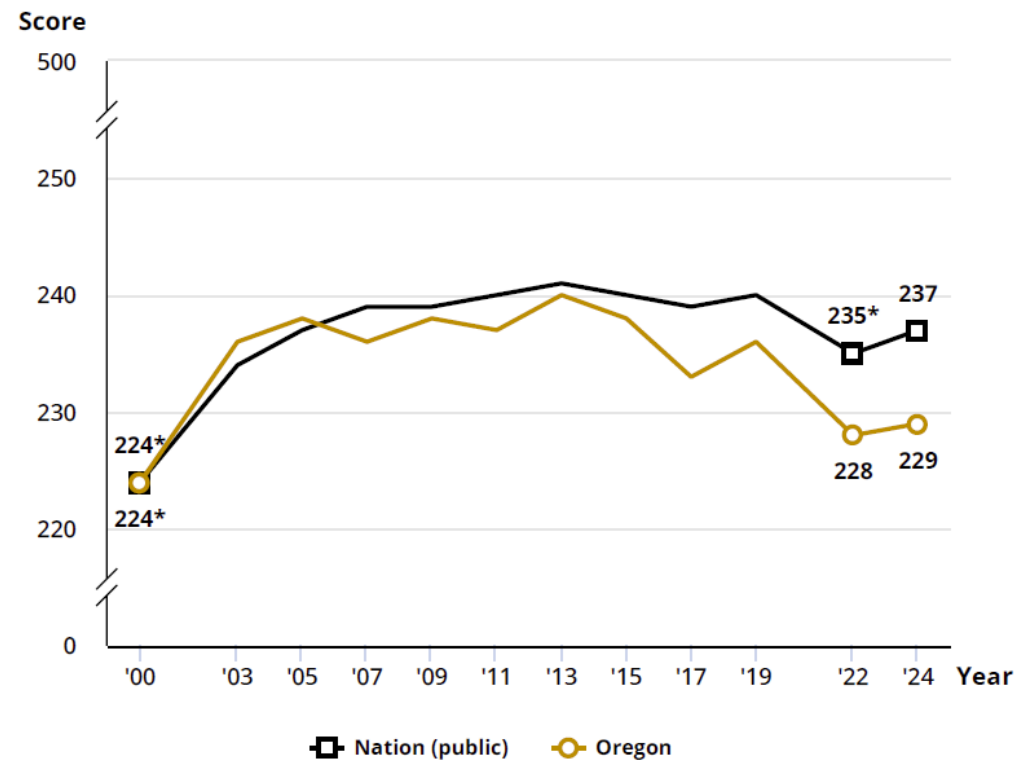


National Average NAEP Scores for 4th-Grade Math



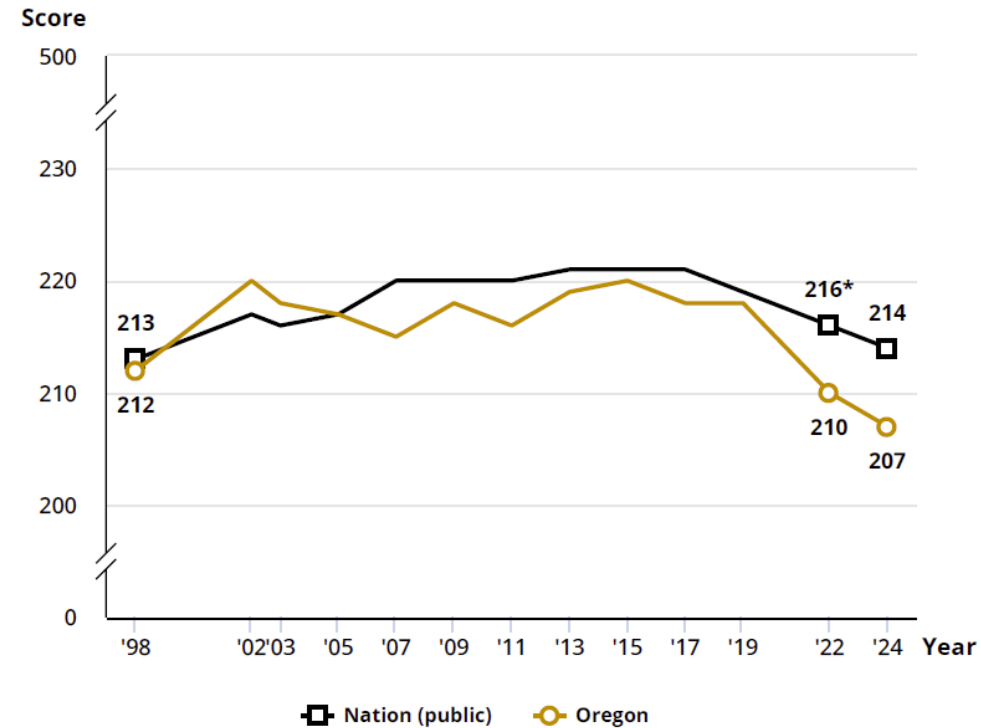
National Average NAEP Scores for 4th-Grade Reading

Average NAEP Scores for Oregon and the Nation (Public)



4th-Grade Average Math Scores

(NCES, 2000-2024)



4th-Grade Average Reading Scores

(NCES, 1998-2024)

Our bold idea...



If we **teach in the way that human brains learn**, students will **learn better and thrive in the classroom and beyond**.

As with the **science of reading**, we can apply the **science of learning**.

An evidence-informed, 3-part equation to bring joy and deeper learning back to children's lives



The Who: Community +
Family Values

+

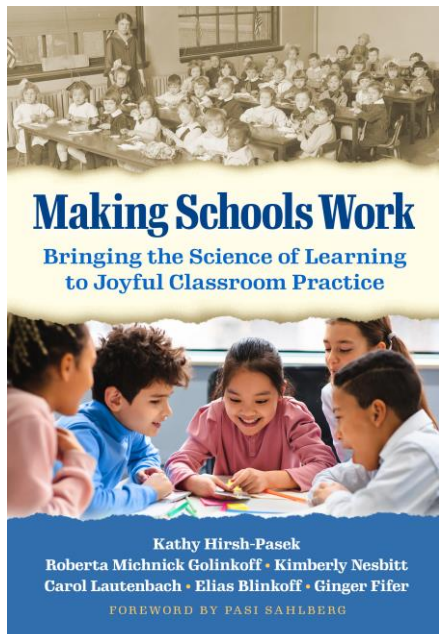


The science of *how* children
learn

+

THE 6 C's
COLLABORATION
COMMUNICATION
CONTENT
CRITICAL THINKING
CREATIVE INNOVATION
CONFIDENCE

The science of *what* children should
learn



RESEARCH

Teaching in the way human brains learn


First results from Active Playful Learning

Kimberly Nesbitt, Elias Blinkoff, Tara Hofkens, Molly Scott, Margaret Burchinal, Andres S. Bustamante, Dale C. Farran, Roberta Michnick Golinkoff, Shelly Kessler, Renee de Kruif, Debbie Leslie, Susan Levine, Margaret Owen, Robert Planta, Deborah Lowe Vandell, Annie Wright, and Kathy Hirsh-Pasek
May 23, 2025



Article

Observation of Student and Teacher Behaviors during a Preliminary Active Playful Learning Intervention in Kindergarten Classrooms

Elias Blinkoff ^{1,*}, Kimberly Turner Nesbitt ² , Roberta Michnick Golinkoff ³ and Kathy Hirsh-Pasek ^{1,4}



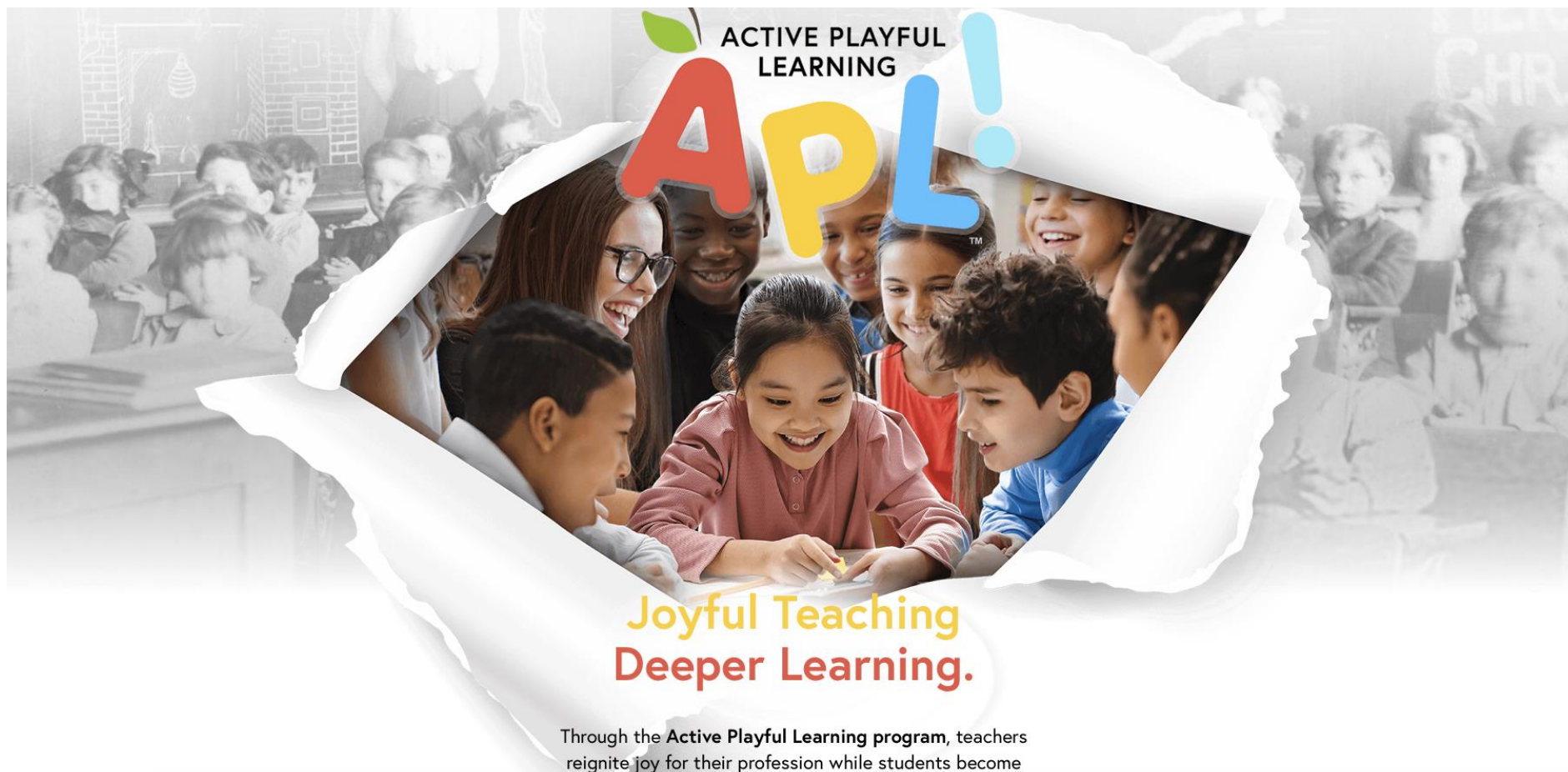
Early Education and Development

ISSN: (Print) (Online) Journal homepage: www.tandfonline.com/journals/heed20

Feasibility and Acceptability of an Active Playful Learning Intervention for Kindergarten Teachers Using Instructional Coaching

Kimberly Turner Nesbitt, Elias Blinkoff, Adalet Baris Gunersel & Kathy Hirsh-Pasek

Crucially, it is adaptable to any curricula:
A pedagogical approach



The image is a promotional graphic for the Active Playful Learning (APL!) program. It features a central, torn-paper-style cutout showing a smiling teacher and a group of diverse young students gathered around a table, engaged in a learning activity. The background is a faded, grayscale image of a classroom with other students. Overlaid on the top center of the cutout is the APL! logo, which includes the text 'ACTIVE PLAYFUL LEARNING' above the large, colorful letters 'APL!' with a green leaf icon above the 'A'. Below the cutout, the text 'Joyful Teaching Deeper Learning.' is written in a yellow and red font. At the bottom, a small line of text reads: 'Through the Active Playful Learning program, teachers reignite joy for their profession while students become'.

ACTIVE PLAYFUL
LEARNING
APL!

**Joyful Teaching
Deeper Learning.**

Through the **Active Playful Learning** program, teachers
reignite joy for their profession while students become

Studies in New Hampshire demonstrated the initial feasibility with K teachers

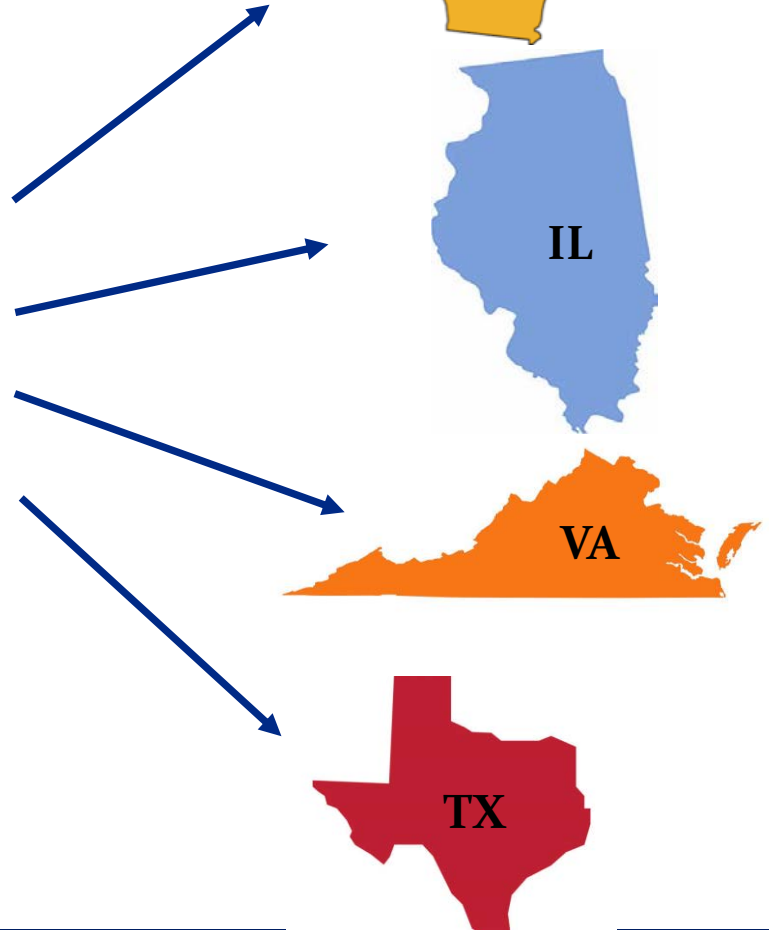


- < passive instruction
- > student engagement and active learning
- > student agency
- > across students' 6 Cs
- > teacher joy in their jobs

Now testing in 4 states:



- 320 classrooms
- 24 coaches



Joining this year

PILOT RESULTS

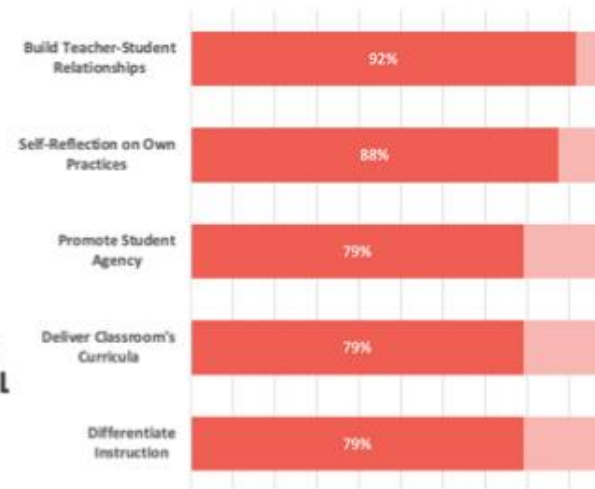
What APL Teachers are saying...



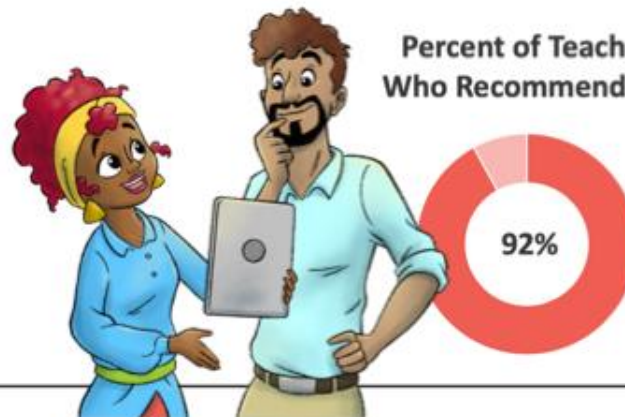
APL helps students grow in ...



Percent of teachers who find APL beneficial for the following teaching practices

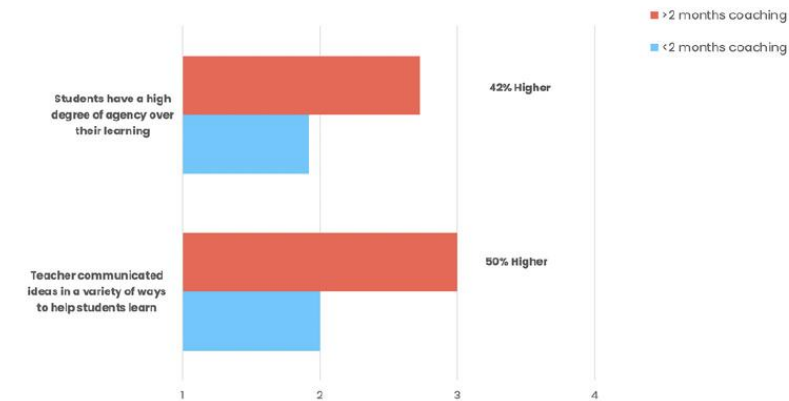


Percent of Teachers Who Recommend APL



Observations of classrooms revealed...

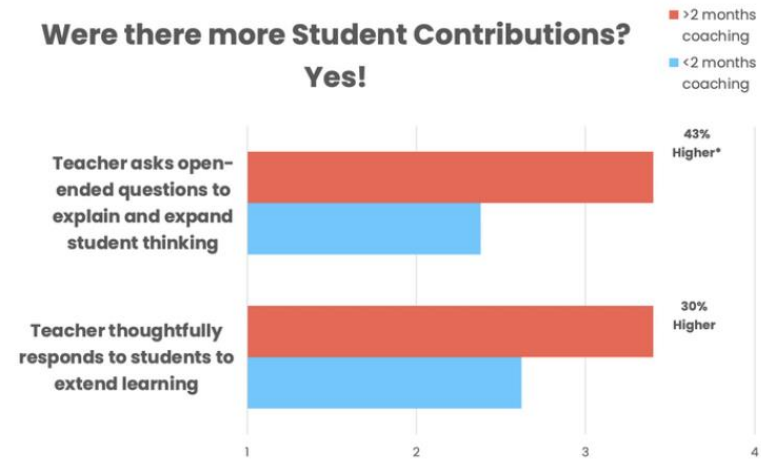
Did students have more Voice & Choice? Yes!



*Percent higher reflects observer rating of classrooms with more than 2 months of APL compared to classrooms with less than 2 months of



Were there more Student Contributions? Yes!



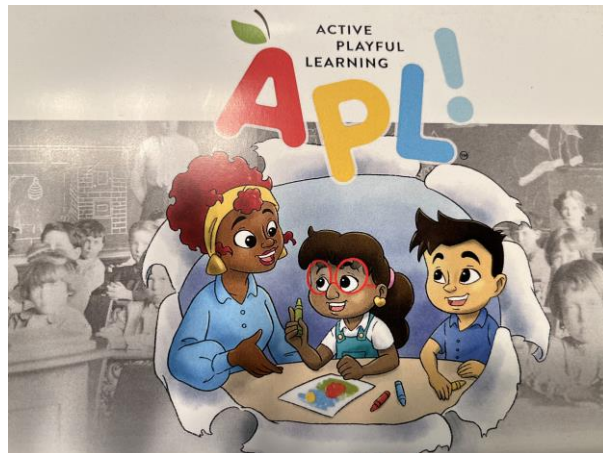
*Percent higher reflects observer rating of classrooms with more than 2 months of APL compared to classrooms with less than 2 months of APL

TO DATE, We developed.....

OUTREACH



Activeplayfullearning.com



Los niños con la oportunidad de manejar su propio aprendizaje se enfocan más.

Elección y opinión de los estudiantes sobre las estrategias que usan para aprender y mostrar lo que han aprendido les da un sentido de voluntad.



APL Bulletin-UCI May 2024

Active Playful Learning at Orange County Public Schools



Meet Eskayla! SAUSD APL Coach

Meet Eskayla, one of our three Santa Ana Unified School District coaches dedicated to integrating Active Playful Learning in classrooms.

With 13 years of teaching experience, Eskayla supports educators in creating engaging learning environments to enhance student outcomes. She holds a B.S. in Child and Adolescent Studies and an M.S. in Special Education, bringing a wealth of knowledge to her role.

Next Steps & Goals

- Provide ongoing coaching support for APL teachers
- Collaborate with local community organizations
- Enhance community engagement in classrooms

Welcome to our APL Quarterly Bulletin!

What is Active Playful Learning (APL)?

Active Playful Learning offers professional development to educators based on the latest evidence in the science of learning. APL is a program built from a three-part equation that embraces:

cultural and community beliefs
+ the **how** of learning + the **what** of learning.

- Integrates playful learning strategies into existing curricula
- Currently in: Pennsylvania, Michigan, New Hampshire, Virginia, Texas, Illinois, Philadelphia and **California!**
- For more information, contact: Laurah8@uci.edu
- **Sponsored by the LEGO Foundation!**

Spring HIGHLIGHTS

We are working alongside 15 amazing Santa Ana Unified School District teachers! Supported by 3 kind, hardworking and talented district coaches: Telly, Eskayla, & Damaris
Lead Researcher: Santa Ana advocate and UCI professor, Dr. Andres Bustamante
Project Coordinator: Bilingual executive function & child development researcher, Laura Hernandez

Upcoming Community Events, May-June 2024

MAY
6-10

Teacher
Appreciation
Week!

MAY
18

Free Family Public Works
Community Event
[Learn more](#)

May 2,
June 6

Down Payment Assistance
Program Workshop
[Learn more](#)

JUNE
7

Movies in the Park
Begins!
[Learn more](#)

Everything is *Open Source*