

Part B Project Summary

Project Title: Effects of a language-rich phonological awareness intervention on English language and literacy among Hong Kong Chinese kindergarteners

Name of Organization: Department of Psychological Studies, The Hong Kong Institution of Education

(1) Goals:

Short-term goal: To implement early English language and literacy program for kindergartners in Hong Kong

Long-term goal: To generate research evidence on the effectiveness of oral language and phonological awareness program in promoting language and literacy development of Chinese ESL children

(i) Short-term objectives: (1) To enhance English oral language, phonological awareness, reading skills and learning motivation among the participating Chinese ESL kindergarteners; (2) To enhance skills and confidence of the participating Cantonese-speaking local teachers to implement English language and literacy learning activities; (3) To provide guidelines for parents of the participants to support their children's English language and literacy development at home

(ii) Long-term objectives: (1) To develop evidenced-based English language and literacy program for Hong Kong Chinese ESL kindergarteners ; (2) To improve English-language teaching in preschools ; (3) To provide guidelines for local early childhood practitioners to develop their own English language and literacy curriculum in preschools

(2) Target

Expected number of direct beneficiaries: 20 preschool teachers (direct participation);, 240 preschool children, 500 parents

Expected number of indirect beneficiaries:500 preschool teachers (receiving the resource package)

(3) Implementation Plan:

(i) Project Period: February 2013 to July 2014 (Duration: 18 months)

(ii) Process / Schedule: There are four phases in this project: (1) program design and development (Feb 2013); (2) implementation of intervention on oral language proficiency (Oct 2013 to Dec 2013); (3) implementation of intervention on phonological awareness (Jan 2013 to Mar 2013); and (4) production of resource package and dissemination of results (Apr 2014 to Jul 2014).

(iii) Collaboration with other parties / partners: Local nurseries and kindergartens

(4) Products:

(i) Deliverables/outcomes: It is expected that the participating children will improve on various domains of oral language proficiency (e.g., oral communication skills, vocabulary), phonological awareness and reading in English as well as English learning motivation. Teachers' confidence and competence in implementing English learning activities will be heightened. Parents will be provided with guidelines in supporting children's learning at home. A resource package with a teacher manual and a CD-ROM will be produced and distributed to local preschools. A booklet for parents will be made to provide suggestions to improve home language and literacy support.

(ii) Dissemination of deliverables / outcomes: seminar, research papers and conference presentation

(iii) Commercialization potential of deliverables / outcomes: Nil

(5) Budget:

(a) staff cost : \$529,300; (b) equipment: \$11,600; (c) services: \$ 30,000; (e) general expenses : \$ 35,005, (f) contingency: \$2,295; Total budget: \$608,200

(6) Evaluation:

(i) Performance indicators: (1) numbers of training sessions for teachers; (2) number of training sessions for children; (3) number of teachers involved in training and program implementation; (3) number of children involved in the interventions; (5) number of participants of the dissemination seminar.

(ii) Outcome measurements: (1) Children's improvements on linguistic, language, reading and motivation measures; (2) teachers' perception and beliefs of English reading and language instruction; (3) lesson observation records documenting the effectiveness of teachers' training.

(7) Project Outcome

(i) A public seminar will be conducted to share the guidelines and effects of implementing oral language and phonological awareness programs with early childhood educators and parents.

(ii) A resource package with a teacher manual and a CD-ROM on guidelines in designing and implementing oral language and phonological awareness programs