The development of language and literacy occurs in a stepwise fashion as a child learns oral language, then learns to read, and finally, learns to write. A child’s early literacy environment plays a critical role in the emergence of knowledge. Early experiences with books and reading contribute to their later success or failure in learning to read. More than 1 in 3 American children start kindergarten without the language skills needed to learn to read.

The purpose of the project was to encourage caregivers involvement in a clinic-based literacy promotion project that would increase routine reading time to their children.

This was a pre and post test quality improvement project used to assess an increase in caregiver reading time to children ages five and under. The project took place over the span of four months. A total of 33 caregivers completed the pre test survey, intervention, and post test survey two to four weeks later. Steps used for the project include the following: the author explained the intervention, and post test survey two to four weeks later. Pre and post test questionnaire responses were compared using an excel spreadsheet. There was statistical significance among the pre test and post test scores indicating the intervention was effective.

Clinical significance was defined using McNemar’s Test. Pre and post test questionnaire responses were compared using an excel spreadsheet. There was statistical significance among the pre test and post test scores indicating the intervention was effective.

Greater than 50% of caregivers answered “no” in pre test responses to reading variables.

Greater than 80% of caregivers answered “yes” in post test responses to reading variables.

Before the intervention, a weekly average of 20 minutes was spent reading to a child.

After the intervention, a weekly average of 57 minutes was spent reading to a child.

The development of language and literacy occurs in a stepwise fashion as a child learns oral language, then learns to read, and finally, learns to write. A child’s early literacy environment plays a critical role in the emergence of knowledge. Early experiences with books and reading contribute to their later success or failure in learning to read. More than 1 in 3 American children start kindergarten without the language skills needed to learn to read.

The leadership journey during this project was vast. In the midst of having to change plans when least expected, this project was one thing that remained constant. By focusing on goals/plans, one must learn to adapt in any environment. Dream big, and never give up.

The organization benefitted directly in the following ways: increased patient compliance with scheduled appointments, increase in number of new patient referrals, improved employee/patient relationship, and approved funding for Reach out and Read.

The leadership journey during this project was vast. In the midst of having to change plans when least expected, this project was one thing that remained constant. By focusing on goals/plans, one must learn to adapt in any environment. Dream big, and never give up.

The project is to continue at David Raines Community Health Center however, improvements in data collection will be made. Books associated with Reach Out and Read will be given to the patient following a well child check. The project may also be initiated at another David Raines Community Health Center in Northwest Louisiana.

References