

## The Children

Children are screened for elf readiness beginning at about 3 ½ years of age. The chronological age range of children participating in ELF is 3.5-6.0 years of age. All children participate in ELF sessions with a designated early literacy teacher who conducts small groups throughout the preschool day. Students typically participate in groups which meet on a two-day (T,Th), a three-day (M,W,F), or a five-day (M-F) schedule each week.

## The Literacy Programs

Early literacy groups are organized according to the social emotional needs and readiness levels of individual children. In keeping with guidelines of the **National Association for the Education of Young Children** and the **National Reading Panel**, skill development activities are provided in small groups of no more than 3-5 children, and focus on goals that are challenging, yet achievable with sufficient adult support. The table below illustrates the early literacy programs offered through "ELF". A sample of the goals and skills addressed in each program is included.

### Language Skills Development

#### Language for Learning\*

- Pronouns, Opposites and Prepositions
- Classification and Concept Applications
- If-Then Rules and Recognizing Absurdities
- Part/Whole and Same/Different Relationships

#### Reading Mastery Plus\*

- Combines Learning Objectives and Activities from **Language for Learning** and **Reading Mastery I** Programs

### Reading Skills Development

#### Reading Mastery I\*

- Phonemic Awareness
- Phonemic Segmentation
- Blending Strategies
- Sound/Word Reading Fluency

#### Reading Mastery-Fast Cycle\*

- Accelerated Learning Version of Reading Mastery I

\*Material published by Science Research Associates.

## Instructional Resources

Initial teacher trainings are conducted by a part-time Direct Instruction consultant who is available to ELF Programs approximately 5 hours per week. The Direct Instruction consultant also provides ongoing assistance with follow-up trainings, teacher mentoring and coaching, child placement and assessment, group scheduling, and overall program development and evaluation.

## Individual Child Outcomes

The teaching methods and instructional strategies inherent in Direct Instruction programs increase the efficiency of teaching and can reliably accelerate child learning. Standardized assessments provide insight regarding the rate of skill acquisition, one indicator of instructional effectiveness. Child progress is also monitored using program specific mastery assessments. This information is helpful as teachers address the developmental needs of individual children.

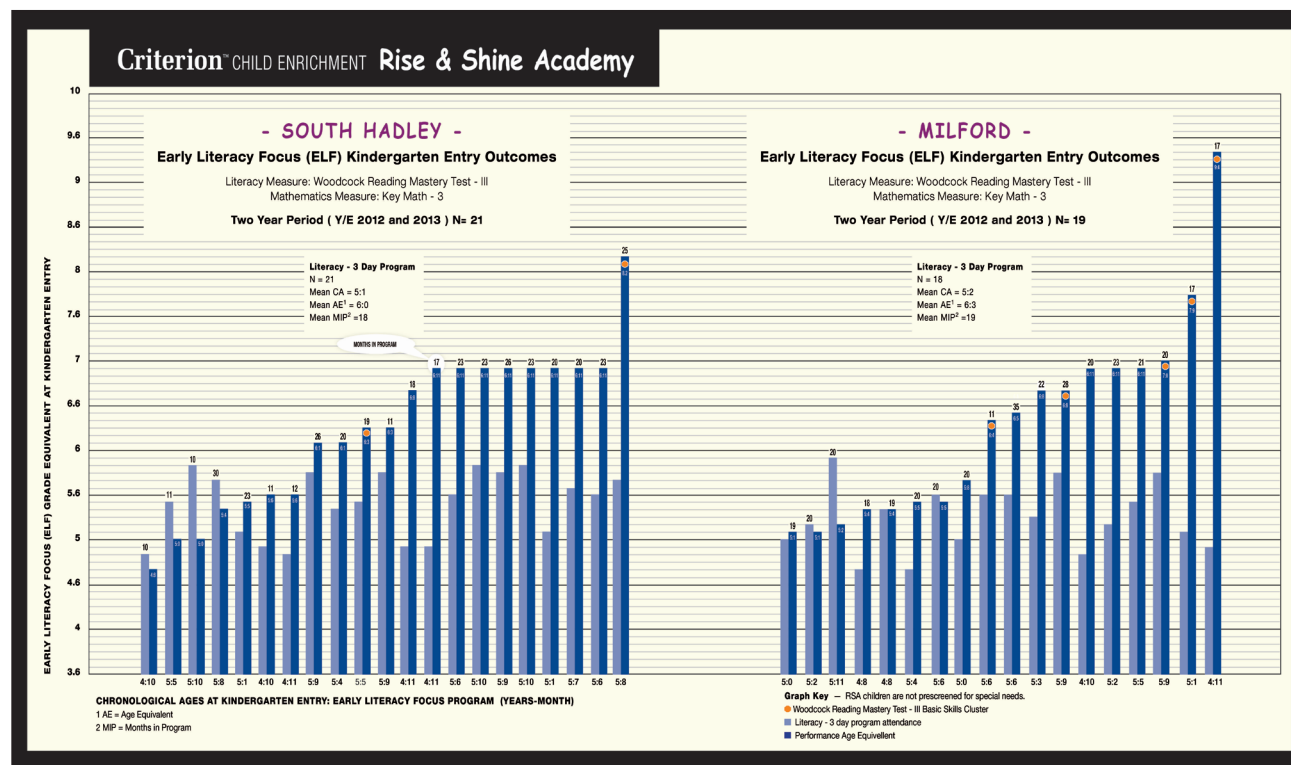
## Early Literacy Program Outcomes

Progress toward mastery of learning objectives is measured regularly using a variety of formal and informal assessment procedures. For preschool children entering Kindergarten, outcome data provides parents and future teachers with an accurate account of student strengths while targeting skill areas needing further development.



## Early Literacy Program Implementation

Regular participation in ELF program activities is essential for child progress. ELF teachers keep daily attendance records and complete weekly lesson progress summaries. The Direct Instruction consultant and program administrators use the attendance and lesson progress data to guide early literacy instructional planning and decision making.



Mastery test results are also useful for assessing progress toward overall literacy program goals and objectives. While outcomes vary, many children participating in the ELF program demonstrate two months' growth per one month of participation.

### The Early Literacy Focus Program (ELF)

is based upon a commitment  
to child enrichment, encouraged  
by recent federal early childhood  
literacy initiatives.

The ELF Program  
includes four literacy programs:  
*Language for Learning, Reading  
Mastery, Reading Mastery Plus,*  
and *Reading Mastery-Fast Cycle*.  
All four of these programs are  
components of an approach to  
literacy development  
called "Direct Instruction".

**Direct Instruction**  
teaches reading and comprehension  
skills using scripted instruction  
that is designed to teach phonics and  
decoding skills in an environment that  
encourages repeated practice.



For more information  
or to bring ELF to your  
early childhood  
education program:  
[www.elfliteracy.com](http://www.elfliteracy.com)

Human Services Management Corporation  
H | S | M | C  
321 Fortune Blvd.  
Milford, MA 01757  
(508) 473-3422

# ELF

Early Literacy Focus

© 2005 Human Services Management Corporation



Early Literacy Focus

**Annual Report  
on Child Progress**