

Vincent B. Kates & Associates

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To:

From: Vince Kates
Video Language Products (*In-English*)
Digital Education Productions (*EASY*)

Re: Adult English Acquisition
Family Involvement

In-English and *EASY* are producing English language acquisition with adults in ongoing ESL programs as a part of a learning environment that is of "sufficient intensity and duration" to produce measurable change. Both *In-English* and *EASY* are research-based programs and are producing performance data that demonstrates a significant percentage of learners transitioning from beginning levels to intermediate levels in 15 months as measured by CASAS.

In every situation where the DVD/VHS/CD-ROM based curricula are in a well managed program and are used in a combination of classroom and/or tutorial and the visual materials go home we commonly see a doubling of the classroom only averages for adults as measured by CASAS. These gains are occurring in Adult Distance Learning Programs, EVEN START, CBET (see below), Migrant, etc.

In addition, we repeatedly get reports of total family involvement with Moms helping Dads, Dads helping Moms, kids helping both and occasional reports of neighbors getting involved in learning English.

Following is a discussion of the development of the curricula, the research behind them, and some of the performance data provided to us.

In-English was developed by Rick Bourell in the mid and late 1980's. Bourell incorporated the findings of Krashen and Terrell, Lee and Van Patten, Potovsky, Asher and others. Mr. Bourell incorporated elements of the Comprehension Approach, Communicative Approach, Oral-Situational Approach, Direct Approach, and Audiolingual Approach into *In-English*. (see *Teaching English as a Foreign Language*, Celce Murcia pp 5-9).

Mr. Bourell tested *In-English* in 1985-86 with classes of senior citizens from various language backgrounds. Student retention was superb and the growth in English skills was observable. The classes proved elements of the research to Mr. Bourell.

In 1998, Jean Kyle, now of the Minnesota Department of Education, adopted *In-English* for use at Brawley Adult School in an intensive 12 week, 6 hour per day, 5 day per week Cal Works program. This was the first program to use *In-English* as a classroom and home study program.

Videos were sent home. The results were immediate and measurable. After 4 weeks, caseworkers were remarking on their clients improved English skills. The “pilot” program was quickly expanded to the 4 adult schools in Imperial County and expanded to 26 weeks. The data produced is astonishing.

Shortly thereafter, Proposition 227 passed in California. The intent of Proposition 227 was (is) “to raise the general English level of the community.” Community based Educational Programs (CBET) funded by Proposition 227 began adopting *In-English* for home study and family involvement. Among the early adopters was Clovis Adult School. Vivian Simons of Clovis Adult combined CBET with the Clovis EVEN START program and began using *In-English* in a combination of classroom and video checkout. Her adult students’ results were significantly above the state averages. At the Clovis Pinedale site, initial results showed 25 students achieving 33 benchmarks. At the EVEN START site, 19 students achieved 22 benchmarks.

In the spring of 2001, LeAnn Killam of the Azusa Adult CBET program advised us of data that she had developed as a part of a paper to be submitted for her administrative credential.

Ms. Killam produced a comparison of enrollment, retention and learning gains between the spring semester of 2000 and the following fall semester. At the beginning of the fall semester 175 CBET students began a program combining classroom attendance in ESL and video checkout. Matched pairs, an indicator of student retention, increased by 153 (222 spring to 379 fall.). Benchmarks increased by 282 (163 spring to 445 fall). In order to capture ADA for the Adult School, Azusa then applied for and received a 5% Distance Learning grant. Data for the first five months of their Distance Learning program shows gains far exceeding the state averages.

In the fall of 1999, John Dicker of Digital Education Productions met with Richard Bourell, the author of *In-English*. Mr. Dicker had become aware of the successes of *In-English* as a classroom and checkout program. Mr. Dicker asked Mr. Bourell if he would develop an entirely new program. Mr. Bourell replied, “I’ll never do 20 hours of video again.” However, Mr. Bourell advised Mr. Dicker of the need to produce something for the “barely literate”, to develop material that correlated topically with CASAS and to caption form and structure as well as vocabulary in visual context.

Mr. Dicker proceeded to review every video program available and to examine the research. The result was the production of *EASY 1, the Beginning Series* which became available in the spring of 2001 which resolved Mr. Bourell's request for something for the "barely literate". *EASY 2, Community Essentials* became available in the spring of 2003 and resolved much of the need for CASAS correlated material. As Mr. Bourell advised, *EASY 1 & 2* now serve as a critical complement to *In-English*. While each are successful and used independently, the combined curricula are proven to be incredibly powerful.

Clovis, among many others, immediately adopted *EASY 1*. Christie Baird, the Director of the EVEN START program at Buena Park, California, adopted *In-English* and *EASY 1* to begin her second EVEN START year. In July of 2002 Buena Park began with a video checkout program only. During the 3 months from July to September, 9 students of 13 without a teacher showed CASAS gains of 5 points or more with video checkout only. ESL classes with a teacher began in September 2002. For the complete year from July of 2002 to June of 2003 the average scale score gain for the 30 EVEN START parents who took a pre-post test was 13.80. The 10 students who took every test for the full year produced an average gain of 17.70. The next year, 25 Buena Park EVEN START parents averaged a 9.96 gain and the 7 students who took each test for the full year averaged an 18.29 gain. 15 Buena Park parents who were in attendance for a minimum of 15 months averaged a 24.7 scale score gain.

Additional data using *EASY* and/or *In-English* in checkout programs has been provided by Compton Adult School, Orange Adult School, and Sweetwater Adult School.

Dennis Porter, Director of the California Distance Learning Project recently produced a review of the 2002-2004 Innovation and Alternative Instructional Delivery Program. Video Checkout for ESL home study is the overwhelming model (91.9% of participants). The conclusions drawn in Mr. Porter's review include:

"The Innovation Programs ESL participant progress was better than adult school classroom programs for the same period in all categories."

"It has also been noted in reports from several projects that having videos available for ESL students presents an appealing way for them to repeat and review instruction in order to approach language mastery. It is often also a topic or skill that can be discussed with other family members and, in which they can practice

their skills at home.”

The majority of EVEN START programs that I have come in contact with consist of primarily beginning level students. *In-English* and *EASY* address the needs of the beginning level student and teach the structure and form that allows the student to progress to higher levels.

We can say that when *In-English* and *EASY* are used for home study and combined with classroom instruction, the intensity of learning is increased. We believe that the duration of learning is increased because:

1. Achievement is real; the students understand they are learning and stay with the curricula;
2. The family involvement made easy by home study with videos/DVDs contributes to the motivation of people to continue; and
3. The design of EVEN START which provides the support services necessary for the parent to concentrate on learning.

Thank you again for the opportunity to present *In-English* and *EASY* to you.

We look forward to be of continuing service to EVEN START.

Best Wishes,

Vince Kates

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