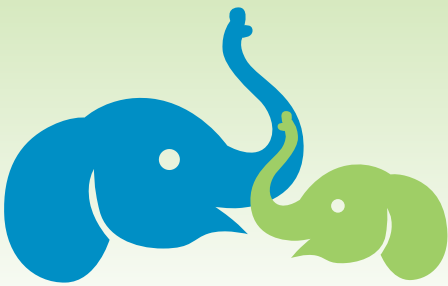


**Early Language &
Literacy for All (ELLA)**



Project ELLA 2022 Impact Report



About Project ELLA

Project ELLA (Early Language and Literacy for All) is free speech and language therapy available for children from birth to age 5 at the University Circle office of Cleveland Hearing and Speech Center.

The Importance of Project ELLA in Early Childhood

Talking and listening skills are key for a child to grow up happy and healthy. Children need these skills to enter school ready to learn and to develop the ability to read and write. In fact, a child's talking and listening skills in the first 5 years of life can predict how successful they will be into adulthood. Project ELLA is here to make sure every child in Cleveland develops these skills so that they have every advantage for a bright future.



Enrolling in Project ELLA

The first step to enrolling in Project ELLA is a speech and language evaluation for the child. A speech-language pathologist (SLP) will identify skills that the child has, and what skills might still be needed. The SLP will recommend individual or group therapy sessions depending on the child's needs and parent/caregiver preference.

Project ELLA - Therapy and Collaboration

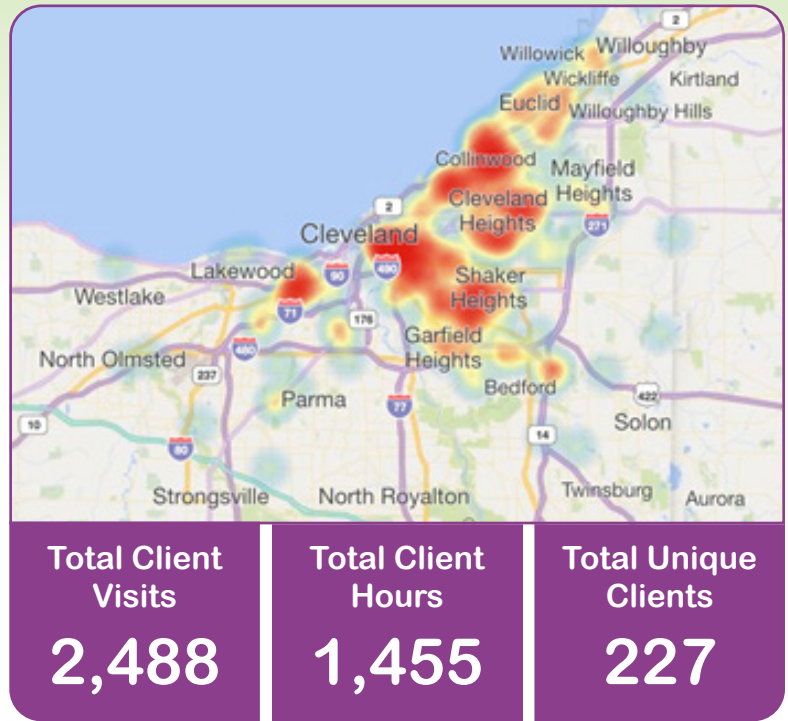
In both individual and group therapy, the SLP works with both the child and parent/caregivers. Our team offers parents/caregivers important tips for language development, like the importance of "back-and-forth" conversational turns for a child's developing brain and language.



Achievements

In the first year of Project ELLA, we are proud to have made a profound impact on the community. In total, we served 227 children, birth to age 5, at our University Circle Facility. Our clients came to us from across Northeast Ohio, as you can see from the heat map that visualizes their addresses. Families came from as far as Westlake and Twinsburg to receive these services, focused on improving early language development in children with language, or speech delays and disorders.

Of the 227 children served, more than 2/3 were boys. This aligns with national data that have recognized that boys are more likely to be affected by speech and language disorders. 85% of the families identified as non-white racial or ethnic minorities.



9 Events	16 Partner Organizations
528 Event Attendees	29 Children Screened

Outreach

Project ELLA is not just about serving clients within our office, it is about outreach to the community to build trust, increase engagement, and gaining a deeper understanding about the challenges and aspirations of our community members. In 2022, our community health worker organized 9 events, presented to 16 partner organizations, and provided 29 screenings to children who attended playgroups. Children whose screenings indicated the need for more help were referred to CHSC for Project ELLA in-center services.

2022 Milestones

January

Launched Project

March

Completed accounting procedures for no-cost care

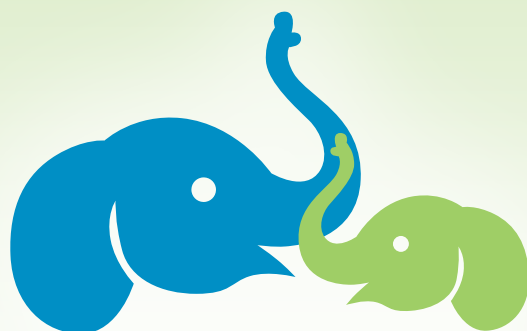
July

Hired Data Scientist and Community Health Worker

December

Ended 2022 having provided no-cost care to 227 families!





Early Language & Literacy for All (ELLA)



For more information on Project ELLA or other
CHSC speech-language and learning programs and services,
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