

C a s e S t u d y

Adam always knew that developing good language skills was important. In his line of work, sales, one's ability to communicate can either make or break a deal—it can mean the difference between being just OK at a job and excelling at one's livelihood. "If you know how to speak to people you can get anywhere you want to go," explains Adam, a Tennessee native who has lived in Boulder, Colorado, since the mid nineties.

In 2002, when he and his wife had their first child, Anna, they agreed to refrain from talking "baby talk" around her and committed to communicating in proper adult English.

In 2005, the LENA Research Foundation launched a pilot of its natural language study. Adam heard about the study and signed up Anna for the four-week study. She was 3½.

The foundation sent Adam and his family a kit, which included not only LENA™ Clothing and a LENA Digital Language Processor (DLP), but also a pamphlet on the importance of parent-child interaction in child language development. Adam read the document and realized that although he and his wife had been speaking in proper adult English around their daughter, they had not been talking directly to her as much as the foundation pamphlet recommended.

Adam and his wife improved the quality of their interactions with their daughter during the pilot study.

"It made us focus more intently on talking directly to our daughter," Adam says. "We changed our speaking direction, engaged in more conversations, and read as much as possible to her."

A few months later, Anna enrolled in phase one of the LENA Natural Language Study, which recorded and assessed the natural language environments of children ages 2 months to 48 months one full day a month from January to June 2006. During one of the first few assessments, when Anna was 46 months old, the results showed that she was in the:

- 99th percentile for Adult Words
- 91st percentile for Child Vocalizations
- 98th percentile for Conversational Turns
- 90th percentile in the LENA Automatic Vocalization Assessment (AVA™)

In some categories, Adam says, Anna had improved by nearly 30 percentile points. "She had measured high in the beginning, during the pilot," Adam recalls. "But after we increased the volume of words she was exposed to she really took off."

Adam and his family are grateful for the LENA Research Foundation and think that it is important that educators and the public know about the LENA System technology and the importance of exposing infants and toddlers to an abundance of talk and conversational turns. It worked for Adam and Anna, generating numerous benefits. "What's more," Adam adds, "We were able to instill in her a love of language."

Anna, now six, is enrolled in a local public elementary school and excelling in a special program for gifted and talented students. 🐣

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**A powerful new tool for the early screening, research,
and treatment of language delays and disorders in young children**

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