PRESCHOOL RESEARCH NETWORK
Purpose of the PRN

• A small, diverse group of NJ districts committed to processing and disseminating information as well as conducting research to guide preschool policies and practice with a special focus on English Language Learners (ELL).
Our Beginning

• Asked districts to apply to participate in the PRN and commit to the network
• Asked the districts why they were applying
  – *Interested in sharing our own data and experiences with others*
  – *We are always looking for the newest research and policies to enhance our program*
  – *We are interested in learning about how other districts are meeting the needs of ELL students and students with disabilities in an integrated preschool*
  – *The PRN will provide access to research, expertise, and strategies that are responsive to our goal of maximizing the learning potential of our ELL students*
Our Journey

• Reviewed current research as a group
• Participants read several research articles
• Districts asked teachers to complete a survey of teacher attitudes toward ELL
  – *ELL parents should be encouraged to speak to their children in English whenever possible*
  – *Enough books and other props from all children’s home languages and cultures are present in the classroom*
  – *The home language should be used to give directions but not for instructional purposes in the classroom*
Our Plan

• Jointly developed possible research questions
• Reviewed research methods
• Discussed feasibility (randomization)
• Finalized research questions and developed a research plan

• Year 2
  – What are the PD needs of the teachers on ELL?
  – What impact does PD have on teachers’ attitudes and practices toward ELL?

• Year 3
  – What are the effects of a dual language program versus an immersion program?
For more information about the Preschool Research Network Contact

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