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The Governor's Family Literacy Initiative, now the Florida Family Literacy Initiative, began in 1999 and has become a national leader by funding family literacy programs and helping them stay successful through constant measurement and accountability. This year we launched the Florida Family Literacy Academies, 12 programs across Florida, to serve as testing and teaching sites. Our goal is to share knowledge, and help improve upon existing family literacy practices.

Our first outreach is this training guide and on-line course, Research Says!. The heart of the idea is this --learning takes place on many levels and the use of the same materials and themes and ways of teaching for both the parent and child will allow better reinforcement of learning in the home. If you own a few children's books, and know how to teach, you can learn how to keep your parents coming back to the classroom.

Work to develop Research Says! began in 2005 with two of our top performing programs - Apopka's Greater Reading or Writing Skills Family Literacy program, and Immokalee's Jump Start Family Literacy program. Evaluators from the University of Florida embedded themselves at these sites and studied these programs to determine what practices make them tops in the state in terms of family literacy. The results of this intensive, year-long study are now being shared through Research Says!.

The Florida Family Literacy Initiative wishes to thank Scholastic for being a supporting literacy partner. We also wish to thank Marilina Viera, executive director, and Frances Vargas, program coordinator, of the Greater Reading or Writing Skills Family Literacy program, along with Dee Siemianowski, program director, Jump Start, and their staff for sharing their great ideas and practices. The Florida Family Literacy Initiative would like to especially thank the Florida Department of Education, Division of Workforce Development for support in helping to print and disseminate our Research Says! materials and training.

We hope you find the contents of this program helpful in your family literacy classroom.