

Active Playful Learning at Lancaster Independent School District

Welcome to our APL Quarterly Bulletin!

Active Playful Learning offers professional development to educators based on the latest evidence in the science of learning. APL is a program built from a three-part equation that embraces:
cultural and community beliefs
+ the **how** of learning + the **what** of learning



APL at GT Family Night



Meet your APL Coaches!



Renee Llanes

Renee Llanes, a lead coach at SMU's Center on Research and Evaluation and part of the APL team brings over 20 years of experience in classroom instruction, intervention, and coaching. She is excited to coach elementary teachers in implementing new ways to make teaching more joyful and deepen learning.

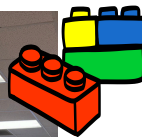
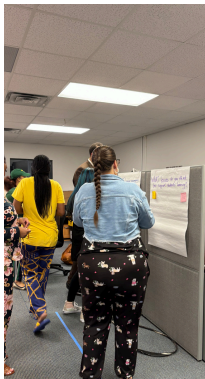


Monica Ramirez

Monica Ramirez, an APL coach at SMU's Center on Research and Evaluation and part of the APL team brings over 30 years of experience in classroom instruction, intervention, and coaching. She enjoys working with teachers to create an environment where students are engaged in building the skills they need to be successful both in their future careers and personal lives.

APL Training

On Oct. 11 Lancaster ISD teachers attended their 2nd APL Workshop. Teachers took a deeper dive into the APL principles, explored guided play, and learned how to APLify existing lesson plans.



What APL Teachers are Saying

"APL has supported me through looking at lessons to determine where APL can be applied and providing suggestions on how to improve partner work during the problem of the day"

-1st grade APL Teacher 2023-2024

What are Lancaster Teachers already doing to support Guided Play?

Hands on- Minds on

- Students use google draw to represent vocabulary words
- Students explore physical properties in science

Small Groups

- Worked in groups to create a drama/play
- Students complete research together

Student Contributions

- Students showed their thinking on Promethean board
- Create personal anchor charts

Enthusiasm and Positivity

- Competitive math fact game
- Ice cream social for MAP growth
- Model excitement and positivity

LATEST APL VIDEO

APL Introduction Video



Chicago Conference - July 2024

APL site staff, principal investigators, and coaches enjoyed our annual in-person meeting in Chicago to plan our 2024-2025 year!



Recent News

Dr. Kimberly Nesbitt and Dr. Molly Scott spoke to the National Governors Association at the Governors Education Policy Advisors Institute in Birmingham, AL in September.



APL ON PODCASTS!



APL VA Podcast

A conversation about what the APL coaching process looks like. Learn more [here!](#)

Dr. Kathy Hirsh-Pasek guest hosts on:



S7 Ep7: Dr. Susan B. Neuman talks about supporting children's literacy

S7 Ep2: Dr. Michael Rich talks about children's screentime

More Locations Interested in APL!



Canada



Oregon



Massachusetts



Connecticut



Pennsylvania

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