

Challenge

Of the 160,624 English Language Learners (ELL) enrolled in NYC public schools (up 6.5% from 2015-16), the largest population (30%) attend schools in Queens. Within NYC DOE, K-2 has the highest numbers of ELL students with 61% from Spanish speaking homes. Five schools from District 27 in Queens—PS 51Q, PS 90Q, PS 63Q, PS 377Q, and PS 197Q—piloted a rigorous ELL program to increase high-quality literacy experiences at school and at home. The pilot program focused on an innovative school-to-home parental engagement model leveraging parents' mobile devices to deliver literacy curriculum anytime, anywhere with or without Internet connectivity. The results were immediate and remarkable.

Footsteps2Brilliance Solution

Footsteps2Brilliance, Inc. was selected to deliver high-quality literacy experiences at school and at home. The Footsteps2Brilliance bilingual PreK-3rd grade literacy apps are accessible on any computer, tablet or mobile device—either online or offline. The comprehensive apps have many features ideally suited for ELL students and families, including a unique page-by-page, English/Spanish toggle switch to help parents support their children's developing literacy skills.



Over 1,000 books, songs, and foundational skill literacy games



Page-by-page dual language support



Accessible via any device both online and offline



Read aloud feature helps struggling readers



Self-recording and singing promote stronger fluency

In less than 6 Months

6,400,000+

Words read

4,000+

Books read

2,300+

Hours reading

Principals' Testimonials

"Parents can access the program through personal media devices to continue learning at home."

Diane Marino, Principal PS 63Q

"Students come to school engaged in reading, listening and writing."

Adrienne Ubertini, Principal PS 90Q

"The children learn new words and practice fluency in English and Spanish."

Tracy Keane, Principal PS 337Q

Queens South Partnership and Implementation with Footsteps2Brilliance

Queens South Field Office organized a five-school pilot to evaluate the impact of Footsteps2Brilliance on pre-K through 3rd grade classroom instruction and school-to-home connections. The Queens South Field Office and Footsteps2Brilliance collaboratively supported the implementation with a variety of professional learning experiences and customized family engagement activities, including: Family Workshops, Parent-Teacher conferences, PTA meetings, and Family Literacy Nights. Data from Footsteps2Brilliance was combined with internal student growth data to monitor the program impact. In order to develop a holistic understanding of the impact and implementation, teachers and principals were surveyed and consulted on an ongoing basis throughout the pilot. "Children are excited to use the program at home with parents and siblings," said Chari Meisel, PS 51Q kindergarten teacher. "[It helps that] parents can download the program onto their devices so that they can use it even when they are not in a Wi-Fi zone."

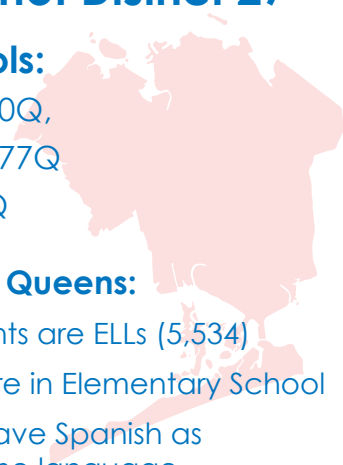
Snapshot District 27

Pilot Schools:

PS 51Q, PS 90Q,
PS 63Q, PS 377Q
and PS 197Q

District 27 in Queens:

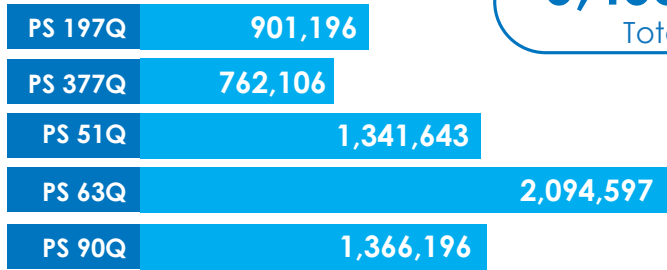
13% of students are ELLs (5,534)
55% of ELLs are in Elementary School
63% of ELLs have Spanish as their home language



Student Achievement

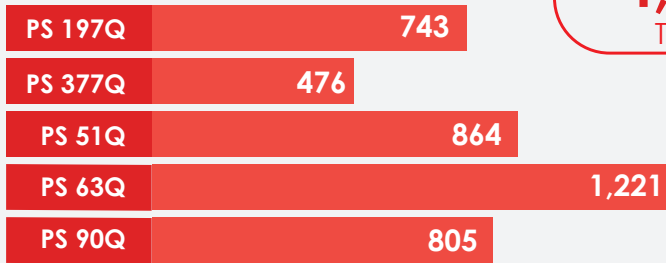
In less than 6 months time, the five pilot schools have seen incredible results. "Footsteps2Brilliance specifically supported my ELL students and parents as it has continued to allow their listening, reading and speaking skills to grow in English and their home language," reports Amanda Ruggiero, Pre-K teacher at PS 337Q. "Parents can see the progress their own children are making at home and school."

Total Words Read



6,465,738
Total

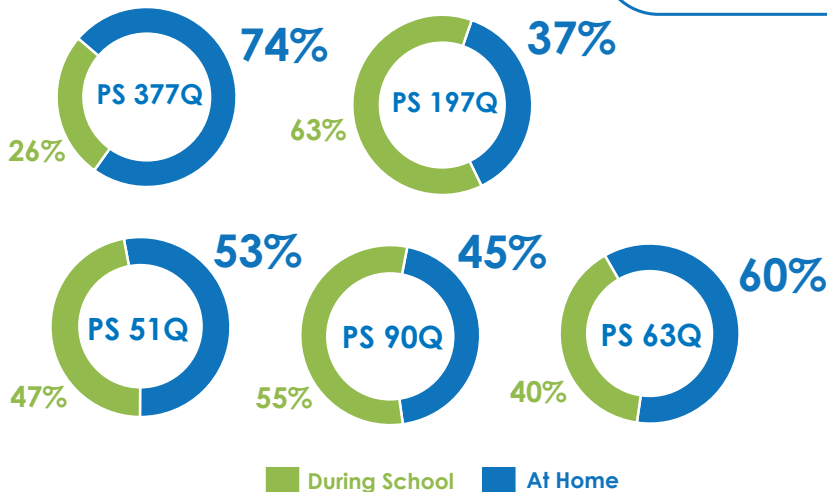
Number of Books Read



4,109
Total

Strong Parental Engagement

54%
Usage at home



Teachers Recommend Footsteps2Brilliance



9.8/10

Excited about Footsteps2Brilliance!



Teacher Testimonials

"We believe this is good preparation for state exams, i.e. NYSESLAT and the ELA, which begins in third grade. Students who previously made no attempt to identify unknown words have begun to sound out words while reading aloud; they gain confidence by using the read aloud feature to confirm or correct their attempts."

Linda Geneo and Jesse Diaz,
ENL Teachers at PS63Q

"My co-teacher and I have noticed they have grown with their sight word recognition, CVC recognition, tracking words as they read, reading from left to right, looking at each word, comprehension, and recall."

Jennifer Darling,
Kindergarten Teacher at PS 377Q

"One student from Guyana shared her new nightly routine in which she reads at least one F2B book with her father before bed."

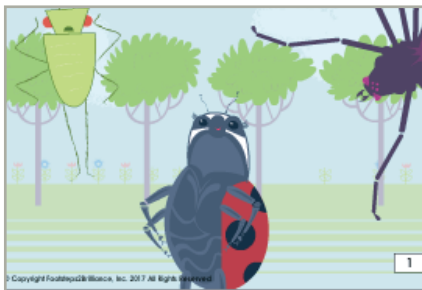
Linda Geneo and Jesse Diaz,
ENL Teachers at PS63Q

"The parents have expressed on many occasions how they are also learning English as their children use this program. I have noticed advancement in the children's responses when speaking, reading and writing in English."

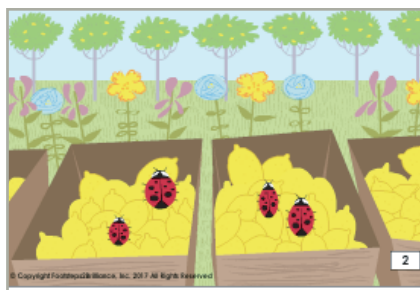
Angela Sanguino,
Kindergarten Teacher at PS 90Q

Student Writing

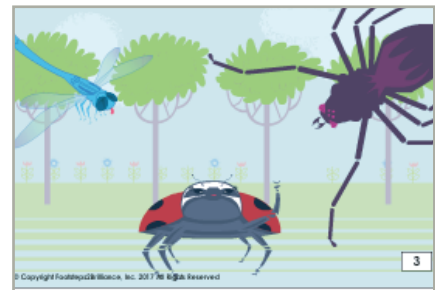
Unlike any other reading app, Footsteps2Brilliance's curriculum includes a balanced literacy and authentic assessment approach that emphasizes writing. Children author variations of books they read, and these student-authored books can be emailed to their parents' mobile devices. Carrie Serino, 2nd Grade Teacher at PS 90Q observes, "The students love the section where they can make a book and create their own stories." The following book, written by an ELL 2nd grade student, is evidence that creating an innovative parental engagement model around literacy leads to exceptional student achievement.



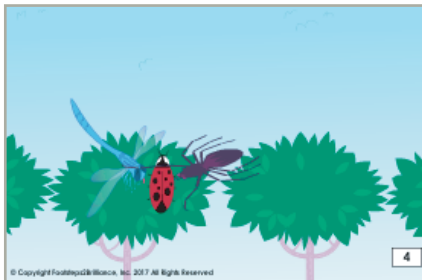
Farmers grow the lemons. And insects eat the lemons.
1



And the ladybug does not eat the lemons. Ladybugs eat the insects.
2



Insects do not eat the ladybugs because ladybugs taste no good.
3



some time insect eat the bug
4



Farmers do not like insects because the insects eat the lemons.
5



farmer is sad because ladybug some time is hungry
6

