



Testing and Learning: The Early Learning Lab Project in Three Communities in California

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Early Childhood Needs to Be Ready for Prime Time

- ▶ Importance of investing in early childhood has reached a tipping point.
- ▶ How do we efficiently help give parents, caregivers, and teachers the skills they need to do their jobs well?
- ▶ Current efforts are often ineffective and scarce resources are not invested wisely.
- ▶ We know too little about what works, even less about how to scale it, and there is very limited knowledge sharing in the field.

Getting Real About Scale

- ▶ The limits of program replication
- ▶ Scaling practices not programs
- ▶ Designing for scale
 - What are the essential elements of solutions?
 - Tailoring/individualization within our constraints
 - What is good enough (efficacy/cost curve)?
 - Pathways and platforms

The Early Learning Lab

The Early Learning Lab is a new venture designed to catalyze the innovation and learning needed to support great teaching and caregiving for all young children.

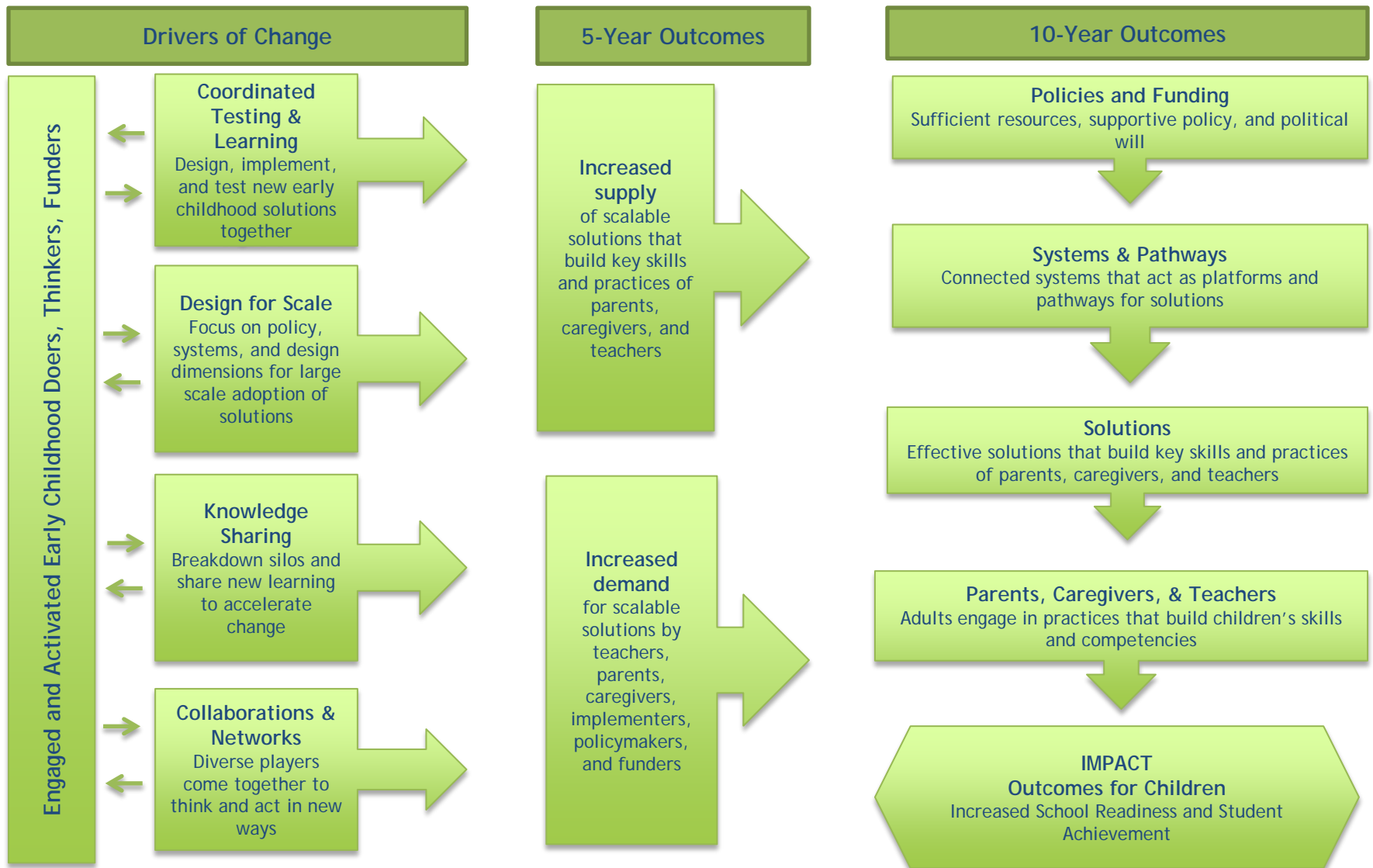
The Lab uses new tools and approaches in partnership with others to design, test, and promote the large-scale adoption of effective and scalable solutions that help adults build the skills and practices that support children's success.

2016 Lab Goals

- ▶ Support coordinated experimentation in select California communities
- ▶ Catalyze innovation and experimentation so we can learn together, faster
- ▶ Drive the field towards new approaches to scaling impact
- ▶ Synthesize knowledge, providing tools and building networks for engagement and learning

Early Learning Lab Theory of Change

Improving early childhood outcomes at scale



The Starting Smart and Strong Initiative

Developing Scalable Solutions

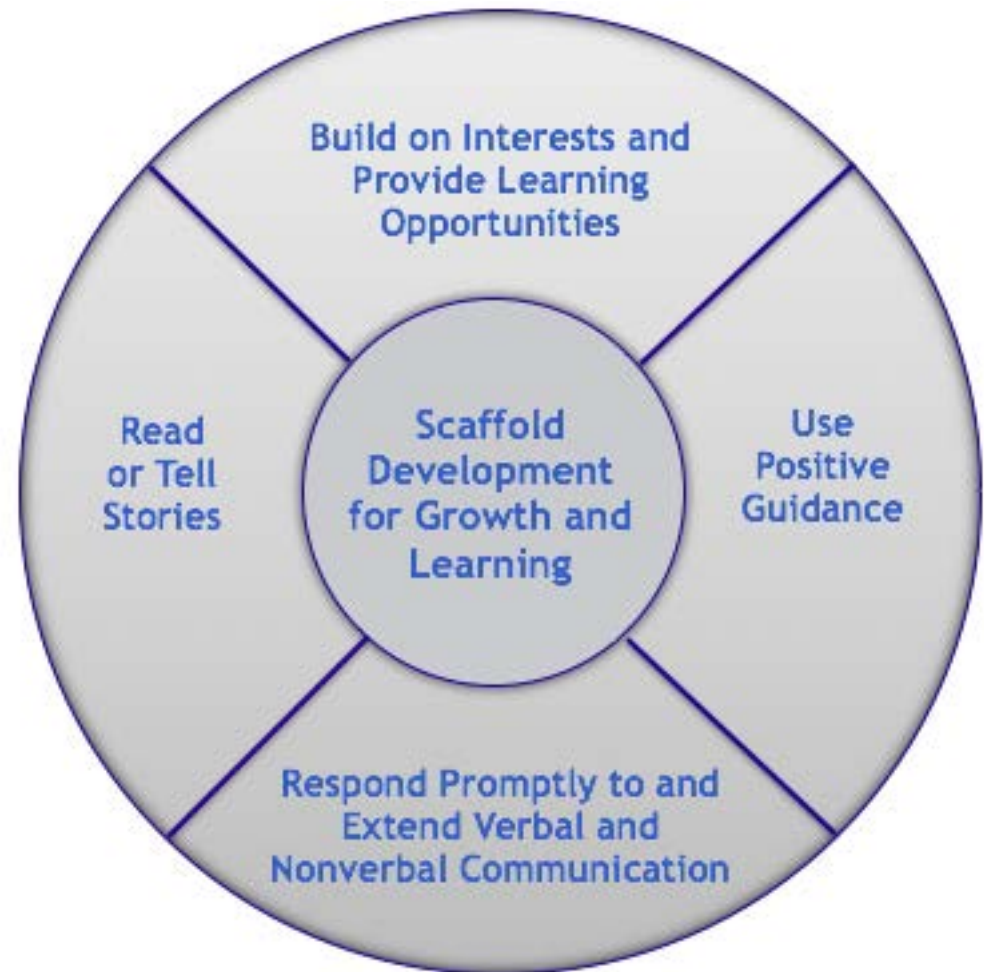
- ▶ Starting Smart and Strong
 - 10-year Packard initiative
 - Oakland, Santa Clara, and Fresno
- ▶ The Lab's role
 - Co-design of experiments
 - Support for implementation
 - Facilitation of ongoing learning

Designing and Testing Practice-Building Solutions

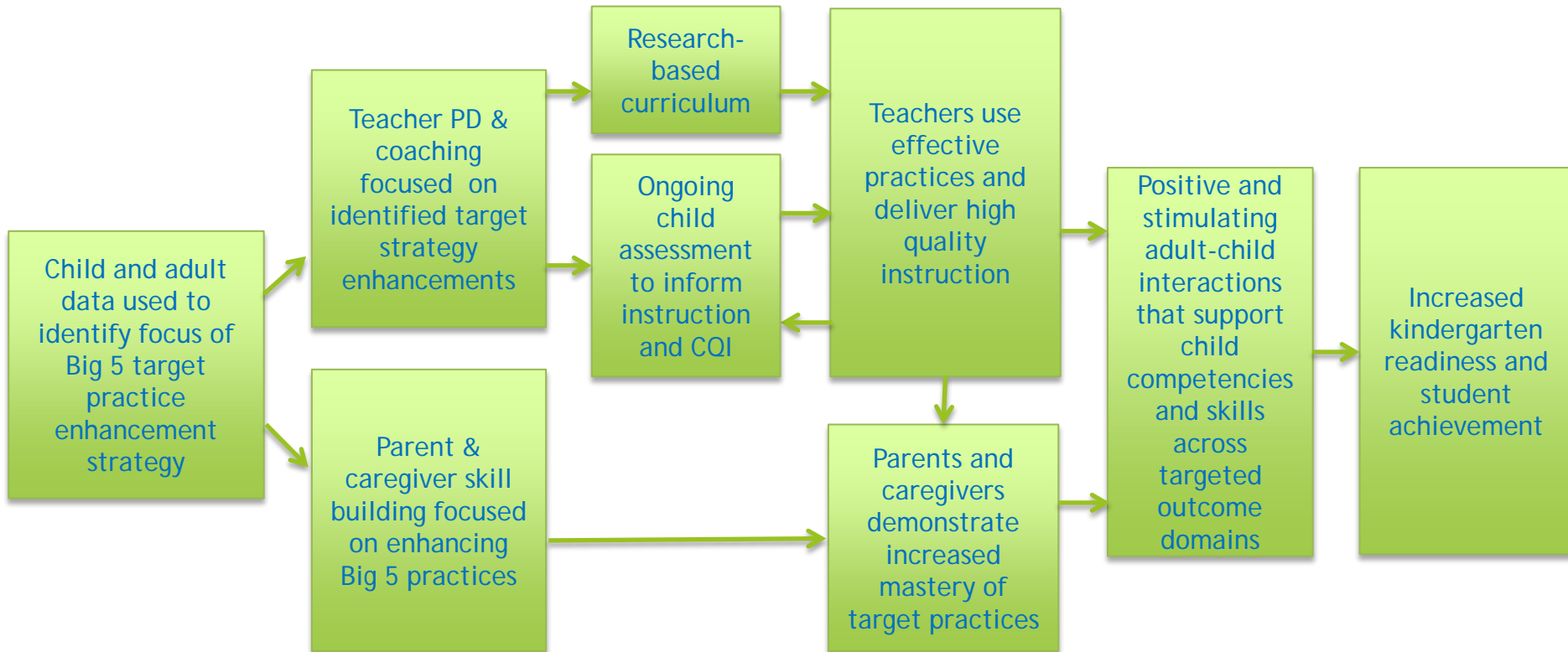
Building the Big 5 Target Adult Practices

THE BIG 5 TARGET PRACTICES

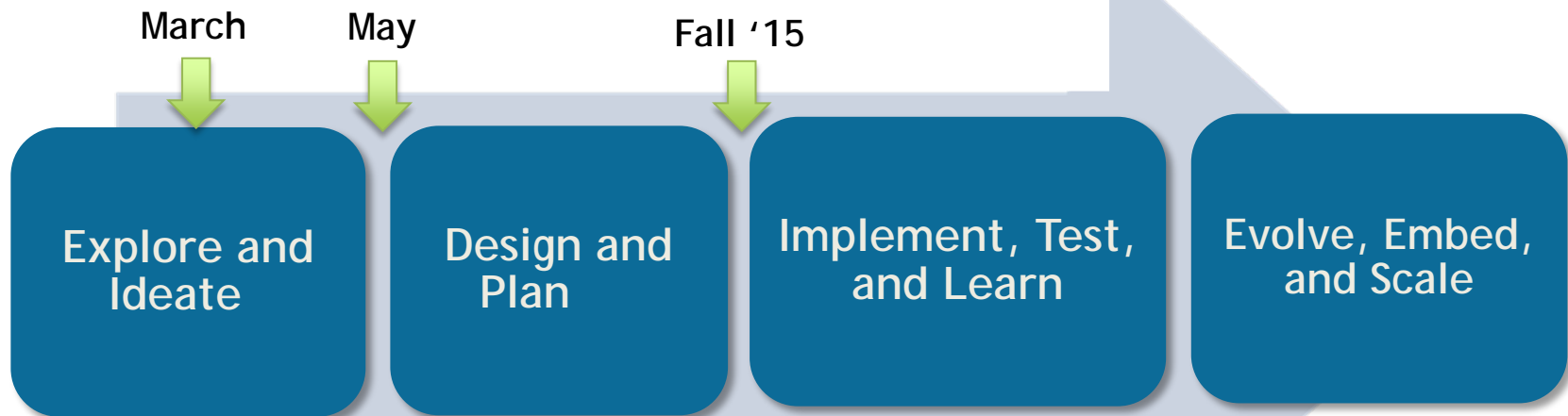
The most important practices we want to build in teachers, parents, and caregivers



Using the Big 5 Target Practices to Improve Child Outcomes



Applying the Solution Making Cycle to District-Led Experimentation



- Form Experiment Implementation Team (EIT)
- Understand district population and need
- Identify potential solutions and assess evidence
- Assess fit and feasibility

- Finalize solution(s) to test
- Develop experiment design and TOC
- Define essential functions
- Develop supports
- Prep service delivery system for change

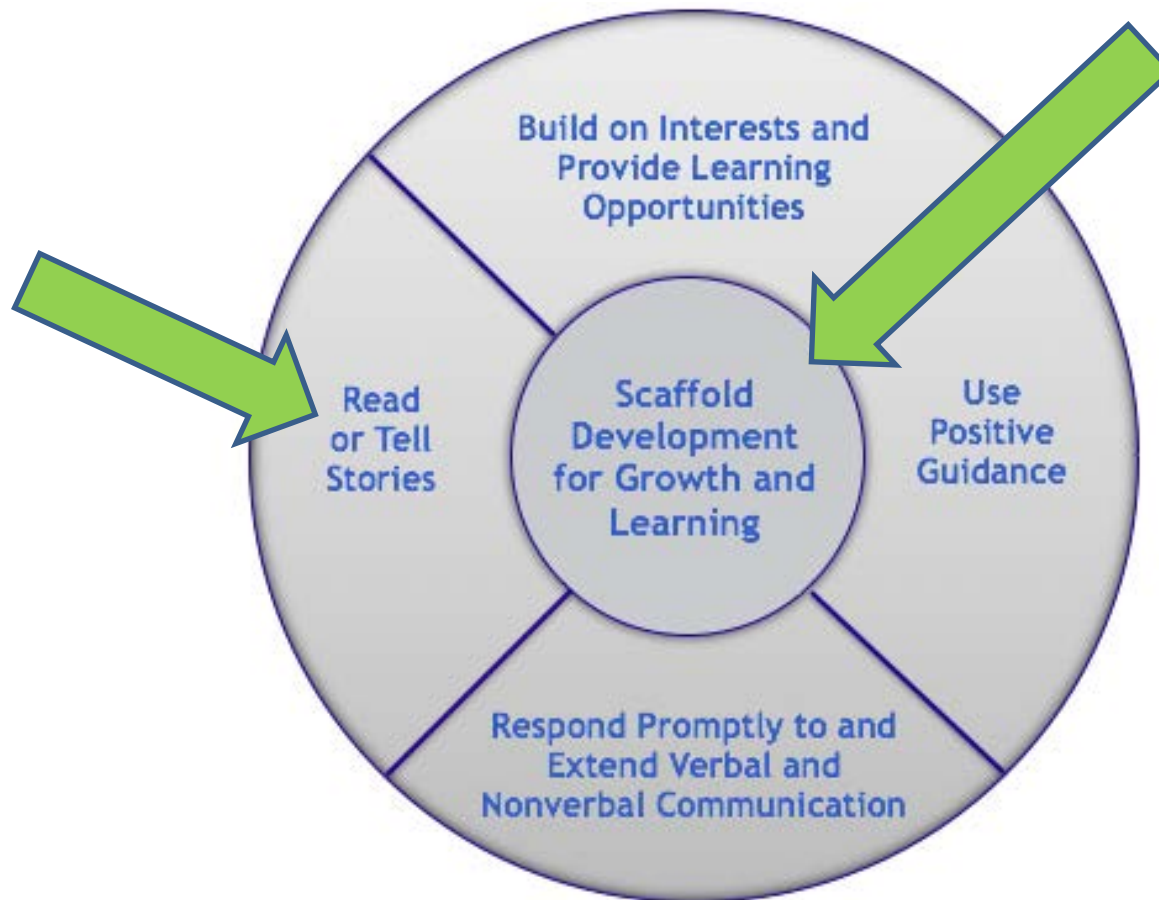
- Launch experiments and initiate implementation
- Use data to monitor implementation
- Engage in rapid cycle problem solving and iterate
- Participate in cross-community learning

- Create conditions for spread inside and outside district
- Institutionalize solution as “practice as usual” and monitor
- Adapt and enhance solution
- Extend reach and scale of solution

Design and Plan

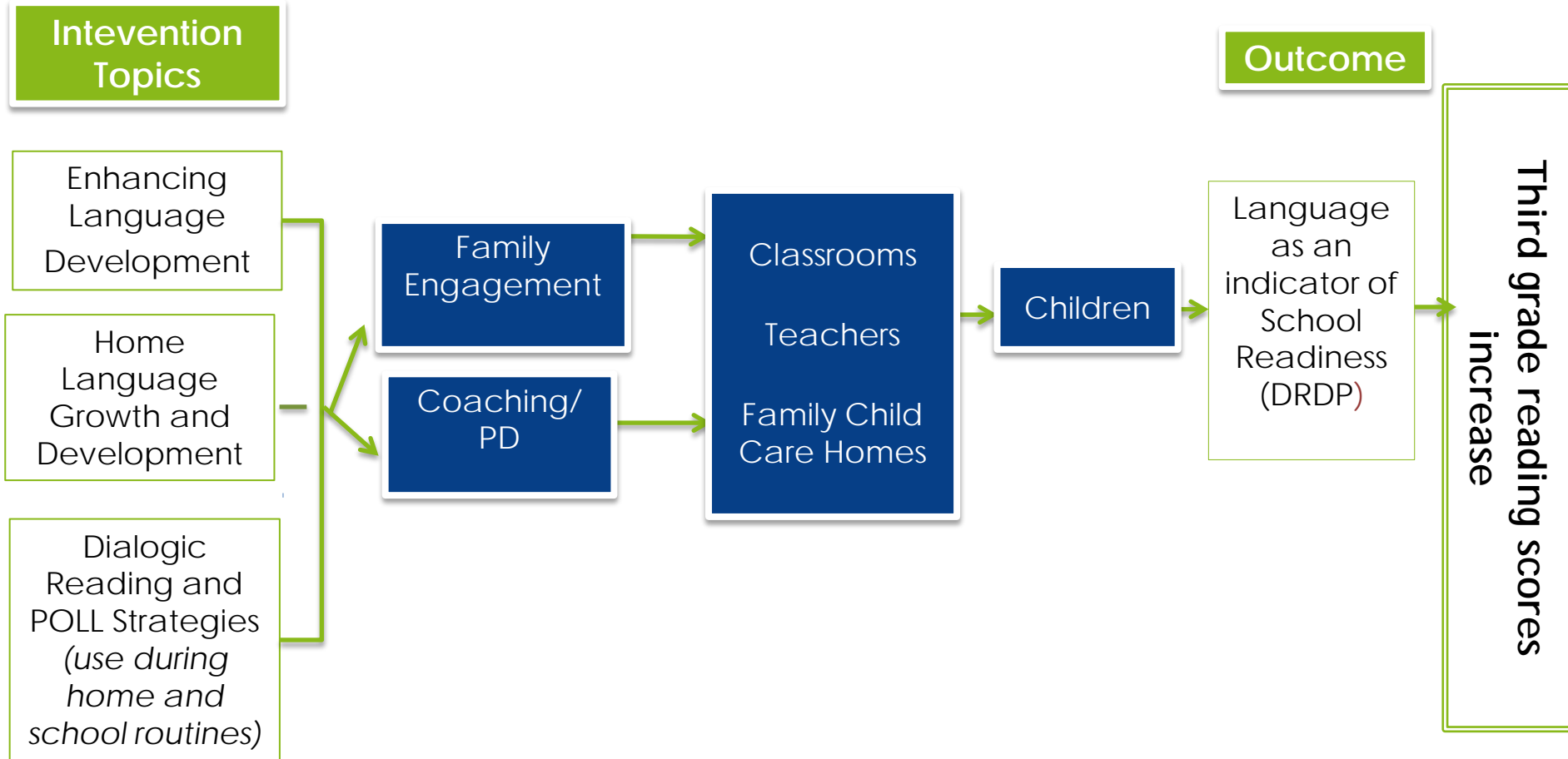
District-Led Example

The Fresno Language Project



Design and Plan

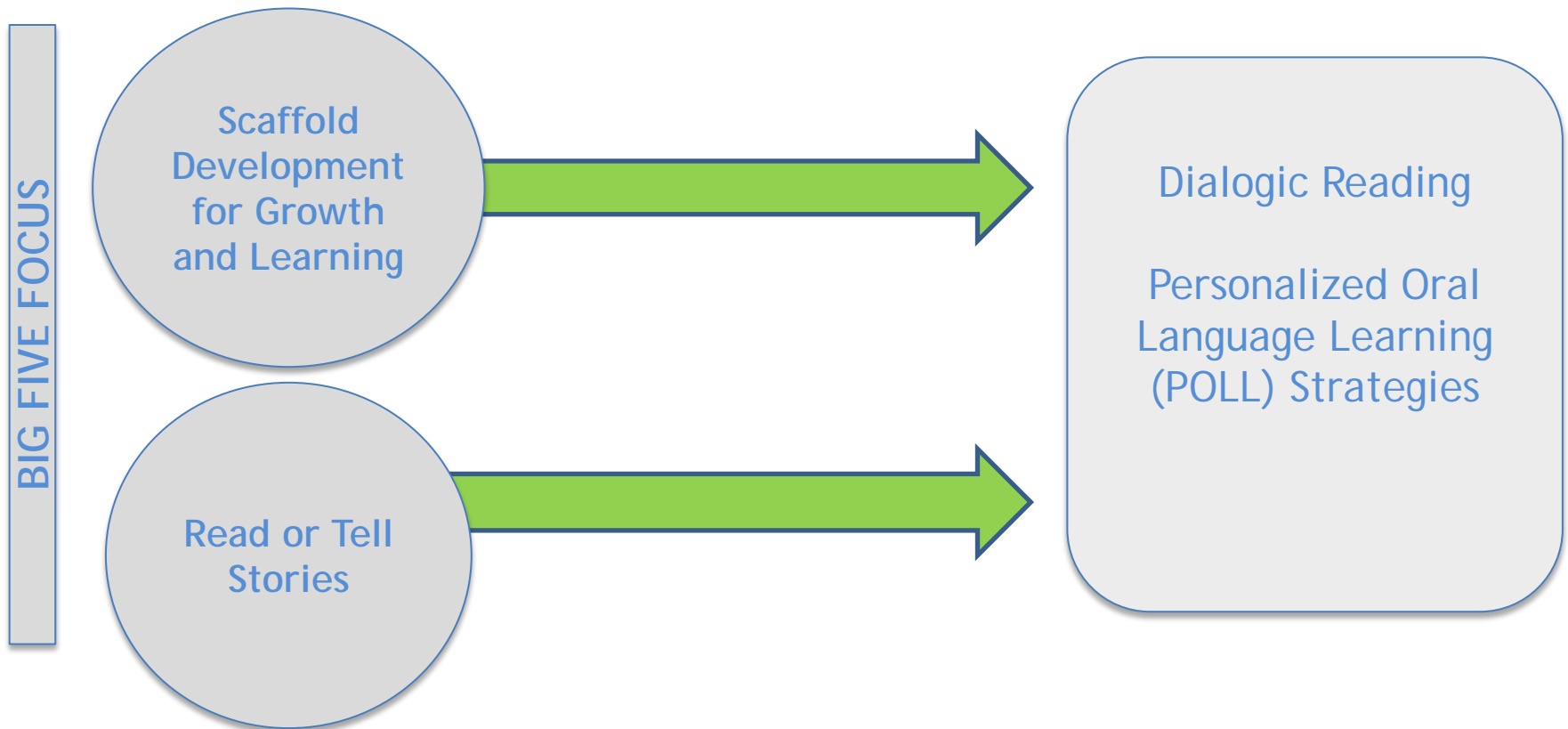
Fresno Theory of Change



Aligns to ELL Big Five Strategies:
(1) Scaffolding and (2) Reading or Telling Stories

Implement, Test, and Learn Fresno Design

Identify Specific Evidence-Based Practice Enhancements
To Address District Need



Questions?

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