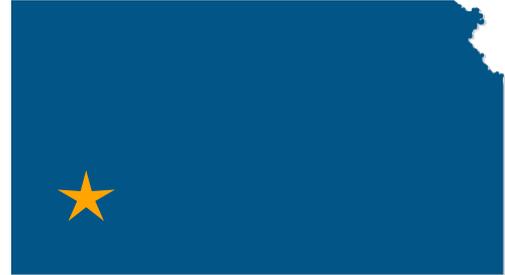


# IMPACT STORY

## Garden City

Garfield Early  
Childhood Center  
USD 457



### TIMELINE OF ACTIVITIES

2018

Bilingual classrooms selected as an evidence-based strategy.

2020-2021

Students built language, confidence and strong family connections.



2019

LiNK provided resources and instructional coaching for bilingual classrooms.

#### CURRENT LiNK IMPACT

Rosa Rodriguez said she feels privileged to teach a bilingual classroom at the Garfield Early Childhood Center in Garden City. Her preschool students are introduced to literacy, math and other academic concepts before kindergarten. Bilingual students transitioning to the Spanish program also gain more exposure to language academically and linguistically.

Spanish-speaking students have an opportunity to learn both languages and embrace their bilingual skills in a familiar environment. Rodriguez says it is fascinating to observe how students learn two languages and are able to translate for other students at such a young age. Students are very proud of their accomplishments and build strong connections with their families, many through their heritage language.

Rodriguez said parents are very proud of their kids' accomplishments in speaking and beginning reading and writing. She also said parents of her students build stronger attachments with their children and confidence to help students with their academic needs.



*Rosa Rodriguez said, "The LiNK program serves as a foundation for the future transition of our bilingual students and prepares them for future success."*

#### FUTURE LITERACY IMPACT

LiNK provided classrooms with materials such as bilingual books, bilingual purposeful play activities and instructional coaching to help guide teachers. Teachers also received new resources, professional development and one-on-one instructional coaching to support evidence-based strategies in their classrooms.

Students not only gain confidence, but also show improvement in both English and Spanish vocabulary as evidenced by FastBridge assessment data.

Students will be well prepared to carry their bilingual skills into the future where, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, only 20% of Americans can converse in two or more languages, compared with 56% of Europeans. Experts estimate at least half of the human race is bilingual. (Mathews, The Washington Post, 2019).

*Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.*