



Welcome to the second issue of SRI International's Center for Technology in Learning e-newsletter. This issue highlights preliminary results of a technology-based program designed to increase middle school girls' confidence in their math and science abilities, and key findings from a recent report that summarizes research on the effects of television, computers, or talking books on literacy skills of children.

Build IT: Girls Building Information Technology Fluency Through Design Design and Communication Technologies Inspire Girls to Pursue IT Careers

Build IT uses design and communication technologies to teach girls information technology (IT) concepts and encourage their interest in pursuing IT careers. In Build IT, middle school girls explore and tinker with existing information technologies and then create their own using simple programming tools. 82% of the girls are African-American or Latina—groups traditionally underrepresented in IT careers. Preliminary results from the quasi-experimental evaluation of the project show that in contrast to non-Build IT participants, girls who participated:

- Expressed interest in IT careers, now perceiving them as fun and intellectually stimulating.
- Demonstrated a more positive attitude towards taking computer courses and upper-level math courses in high school.
- Gained technology skills and an understanding of computers, networks, design and technology concepts.
- Taught family members and others about technology.

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Build IT, a collaboration between SRI International and Girls Inc. of Alameda County encourages middle school girls to develop IT fluency, interest in mathematics, and knowledge of IT careers. During its three years of funding through NSF's Innovative Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers program (ESI-0524762), Build IT will reach 180 girls. Beyond this initial grant, the program will be portable to Girls Inc.'s 1,500 program sites that reach more than 800,000 girls annually. With funding from the Noyce Foundation, a pilot scaling of Build IT has begun at 12 Girls Inc. sites. [Click here for more information.](#)

Media and Technology Experiences Aid Literacy Development

Structured educational experiences with television, computers, or talking books help young children learn to read. By reviewing the available scientific research, CTL researchers found that young children improved in their letter identification, phonological awareness, and word recognition abilities—skills that the National Reading Panel agrees are essential to young children's literacy development. Studies showed that these effects were strongest when parents or caregivers were prepared to support kids' learning with media and technology. This research was conducted jointly with partners at Education Development Center on behalf of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting's Raising Readers initiative. [Click here to read the full report.](#)

[Click here for more information](#)

Other CTL Highlights

The Center for Technology in Learning, under contract with the U.S. Department of Education created the School 2.0 eToolkit to help schools, districts, and communities explore how a common vision for education can be supported by technology. For more information, visit: [Click here for more information.](#)

The Center for Educational Policy and CTL designed and hosted a webinar on the National Science Foundation's Course, Curriculum, and Laboratory Improvement (CCLI) program. The webinar:

- Aided prospective principal investigators in preparing evaluation plans as part of proposals they will submit to CCLI program solicitations.
- Was attended by more than 550 participants, 85% were university faculty members. [Click here for resources and recordings of the webinar.](#)