



# Success in Mr. Jay's Pre-K Classroom



## Literacy and Math Case Study



**"Mr. Jay" Sturdivant**  
Pre-Kindergarten Teacher  
Lithonia, Georgia

*"The Alive Studios Zoo Learning Experience has been the most rewarding resource for my students and is helping me as a teacher better equip my students for kindergarten!"*

*Early literacy and math has never been this engaging and fun!"*

~ Mr. Jay



### Details of Case Study

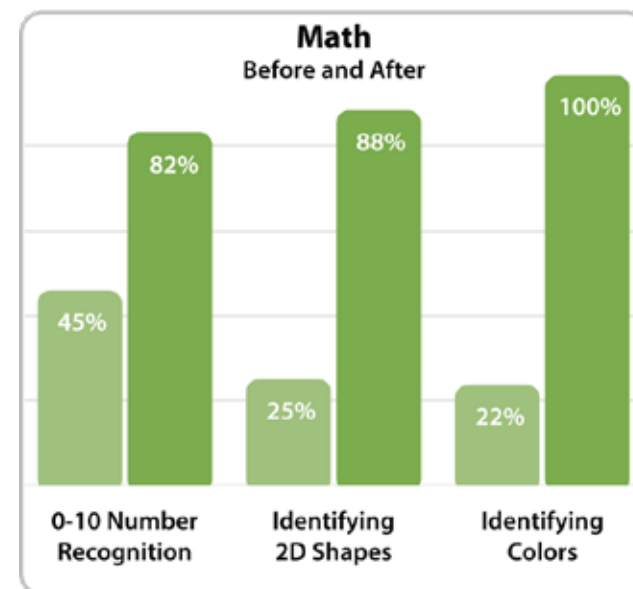
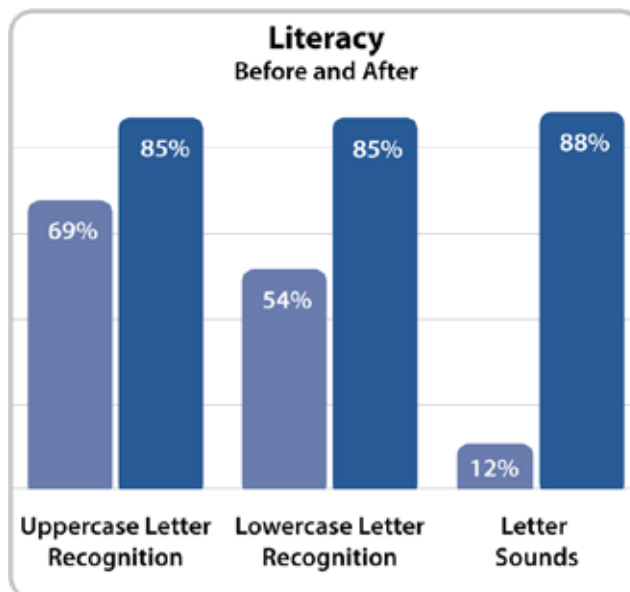
- Pre-kindergarten
- 3 and 4 year olds
- 90 days
- Growth over baseline
- Using Alive Studios' resources

#### Letter/Sound Knowledge

Phoneme-grapheme correspondence is a primary predictor of future reading proficiency.

#### Foundational Number Sense

Mastery of 0-10 recognition provides the cognitive automaticity students need to move from simple identification to active mathematical problem-solving.



Data captured by ESGI.

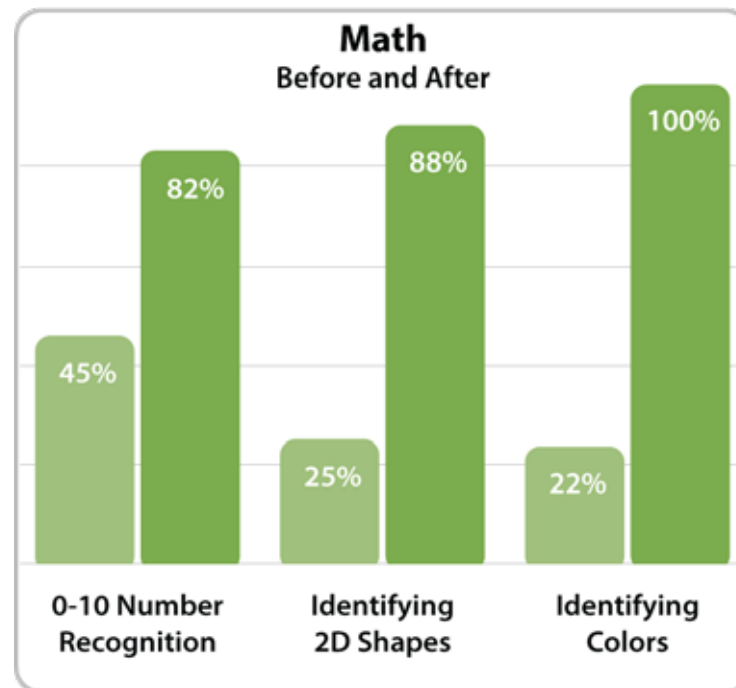
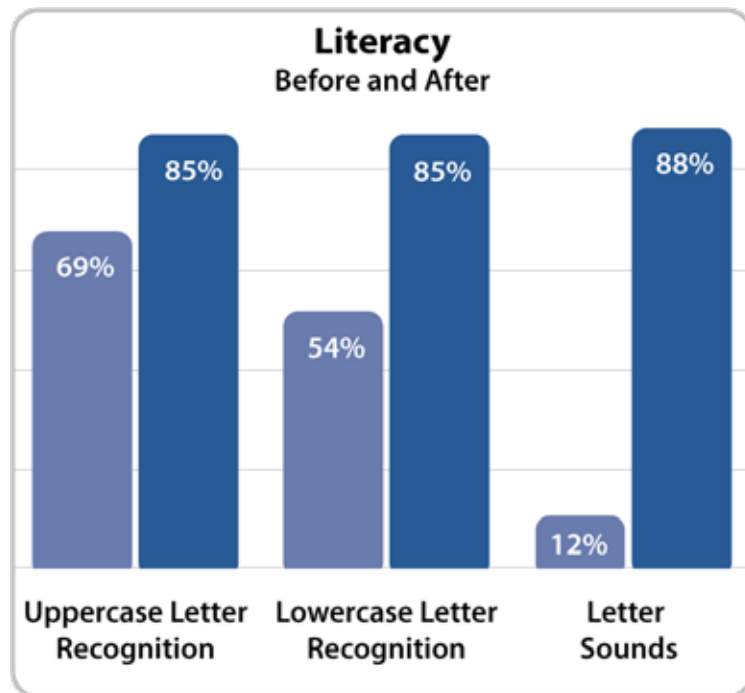
# Case Study Summary

This case study documents the implementation of Alive Studios' 3D multisensory, supplemental resources in a pre-kindergarten classroom serving 3- and 4-year-old students. Over a 90-day period, students participated in daily literacy and math instruction supported by 3D augmented reality (AR), embedded mnemonics, and hands-on learning aligned with the Science of Reading.

*Research shows that “.. by the end of PreK, students need to know 18 Uppercase Letters and 15 Lowercase Letters names to be on track for reading success by the end of 1st grade.”*

~ Piasta et al., 2012  
Journal of Educational Psychology

The results below show phenomenal growth in three early literacy skills and three math skills. In just 90 days, these students were able to achieve mastery of more upper and lowercase letters than what is recommended for success by the end of first grade. In addition, these students successfully identified an average of 23 letter sounds, and had significant gains in math skills.



Data captured by ESGI.

# Case Study Highlights

## Qualitative and Quantitative Academic Excellence (The Science of Learning)

- Accelerated gains in literacy scores  
(w/ significant gains in letter sounds)
- Accelerated gains in math scores
- Turned Play into Learning
- Improved Fine Motor Skills
- Increased Vocabulary

### Educational Note

These outcomes represent not only rapid achievement, but also show these students are building foundations toward kindergarten-readiness and future successes.

## Pedagogical & Operational Efficacy

- Gave flexibility to enhance current instruction
- Provided endless activities and ideas for learning
- Helped broaden teaching style

### Educational Note

This system provides a high “Ease of Use” for educators, ensuring that rigorous, evidence-based practices are maintained daily.

## Whole Child Development & Engagement

- Taught social-emotional skills
- Increased student engagement
- Increased confidence & self-motivation
- Encouraged kid-to-kid communication
- Promoted family engagement (See page 7)

### Educational Note

By addressing the “Whole Child,” this framework ensures that academic gains are supported through strong social-emotional foundations.



## An Interview with “Mr. Jay” Sturdivant

### The Academic Impact (Literacy & Numeracy Gains)

**Q1: From your perspective, what was the “secret sauce” in the Alive Studios Zoo experience that made reading and math concepts finally “stick” for the kids who usually struggle?**

*Response: It wasn't one thing. It was hands-on learning... active learning. It was the interaction, the doing, the 3D Augmented Reality (AR) zoo animals. It was familiar tech; similar to the tablets they work on at home.*

**Q2: Tell us about using Letters alive and Zoo Keeper ABC Bootcamp to learn letters and sounds.**

*Response: The zoo-theme was priceless. Tying the animals' names to letter sounds is so clever! Normally, we don't learn the two letter sounds for some letters; but for the letter /C/, as an example, Celine Cow taught us the two sounds of /C/ so easily! I was amazed at how my students grasped it!*

**Q3: How do you compare the environment of your classroom before and after adding the Alive Studios Zoo experience?**

*Response: Before, it was old school. Worksheets, crayons, and scripted lessons. Now, I use the Interactive Zoo Panel for practically everything. It is my new command center throughout the day. It's the most engaging and exciting thing in the classroom and it has brought my little scholars to life!*

**Q4: How do you balance the right amount of tech time with little ones?**

*Response: Alive Studios Zoo gives me flexible options. The Zoo Keeper Lesson Plans and resources allow me to create the perfect blend of purposeful screen-time with hands-on activities that encourage individual learning as well as collaborative learning. The tech helps me stay on schedule and to provide daily, predictable routines that make my students feel safe, included, and confident.*



### Educational Note

Active learning reflects the **Multisensory Approach** required for deep encoding in the brain. By combining visual, auditory, and kinesthetic input, students build stronger neural pathways for letter and number recognition.

Animal names like, Celine Cow, offer a direct application of **Grapheme-Phoneme Correspondence**. Using “embedded mnemonics” helps children bridge the gap between abstract symbols and their associated sounds, which is a core pillar of foundational literacy.

***"I've taught Pre-K for over 10 years and I've never seen so much joy and confidence in my students."***

*Response: My youngest student is 3 years old. At the beginning of the year, he came in scared, confused, crying, pretty much non-verbal. Now, he's one of my **most confident and joyful** little leaders. The zoo-themed curricula **encourages peer-to-peer communication**, action, participation... and the interactive zoo animals effortlessly convert a child's love for animals into a love of learning.*



*Response: The animal stories are great! Each one teaches a valuable SEL lesson and includes comprehension and discussion questions. We loved talking about Yosebee Yak taking turns with Sergio Seal! And, the stories expose my learners to lots of new vocabulary!*

*Response: With Letters alive, Math alive, the student journals, and the zoo rug, the whole experience feels like a field trip to the zoo! My students come in excited and can't wait to see what the next animal will be.*



When students feel safe and excited, their brains are physically more receptive to acquiring new information. The technology serves as a “Social-Emotional Bridge” for timid or anxious learners.

# 5



## The Teacher Experience (Implementation and Highlights)

**Q8: Teachers are overwhelmed. They don't need "another thing." How were you able to convert another thing into the one thing you can't live without?**

*Response: First, set up and implementation was simple. Alive Studios assembled everything, set it up, and had me ready to go. Second, the training was priceless. I was initially having anxiety over "another thing," but once I saw the magic and how much my students would love this, we were hooked!*

**Q9: States are increasingly setting Pre-K learning standards and guidelines that programs must follow; How were you able to use the Alive Studios Zoo experience to complement your state standards?**

*Response: Alive Studios' resources are so flexible. I simply used them in my literacy and math blocks to liven things up and make them more engaging and interactive. Also, it gives me so many resources and ideas at my fingertips, so I don't have to spend time searching and gathering.*

**Q10: What would you tell your peers about using the Alive Studios Zoo Learning Experience in your classroom?**

*Response: Get it. And get it now. If you use the resources as prescribed, they will increase engagement, spark self motivation, promote confidence, enhance learning, broaden your teaching style, and of course, raise your outcomes!*



### Educational Note

The Alive Studios' resources are flexible, easy to implement, compatible with state standards, and can be used to complement any core curriculum. Backed by strong quantitative gains, these resources offer a high-ROI supplemental solution that strengthens instruction without adding burden to teachers.

## Home / School Connection (Family Engagement)

**Q11: In Pre-K, family engagement is key for student success. How did Alive Studios' resources assist you with getting parents involved in their child's learning?**

*Response: The Letters alive Student Journals and Boot Camp activities are so perfect for this. I sent both home as homework and gave parents the instructions for what to do. The parents love the simplicity and are thrilled to see how much their child is learning! And, my students love to show off their skills and introduce the zoo animals to their parents.*

**Beyond the numerical gains in literacy and math throughout this study, the development of the whole child is best understood through the observations of the families involved.**

**Below, parents from Mr. Jay's classroom share their perspectives on their children's growth and the specific skills they have gained through this experience.**





## Resources Used

### Alive Studios Zoo Learning Experience

- Interactive Zoo Panel™
- Letters alive® with Zoo Keeper ABC Boot Camp
- Math alive®
- Letters alive® Student Journals
- Rugs alive™ Classroom Rug
- Zoo Keeper Lesson Plans

Powered by  
**Augmented Reality**



To learn more about the resources behind Mr. Jay's success, connect with Stacy DeWerd, Chief Growth & Learning Officer.

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See Mr. Jay  
teaching!

