

Family, School, and Community Connections Symposium:  
*New Directions for Research, Practice, and Evaluation*  
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Sponsored by

**National Center for Family and Community Connections with Schools**

*Southwest Educational Development Laboratory, Austin, TX*

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*Assessing the Impact of Parent Involvement Programs*

**Ruth Yoon**, Executive Director, Families in Schools, Los Angeles, CA

Ruth Yoon describes how her organization, Families in Schools, developed a literacy program, Read with me, Lea Connigo, and conducted a comprehensive evaluation. Over a 3-year period, and with the assistance of external evaluators, Yoon and her staff collected data from parents, teachers and students. The evaluation posed a number of challenges, including managing a large-scale evaluation with limited resources, recruiting control group sites, getting the buy-in of teachers to complete the evaluations, and assessing the reliability of parent responses to questionnaires. Despite these challenges, Yoon found the evaluation useful to improve the training and materials for the program as well as future evaluation processes. She also used the evaluation to support fundraising efforts and impressed funders with an evaluation record that reflected transparency, accountability and openness to learning and change.