LENA Start is being launched in the next week at two locations in New Britain. The curriculum focuses on techniques to encourage increased use of language with conversation between parents or caregivers and children, birth to three, in 10-week group sessions. LENA Start in New Britain will be offered at the Hartford Literacy Center (a collaboration of the YWCA, Literacy Volunteers of Central CT and the Community Foundation has allowed the program to be introduced this fall. The Central CT Family Literacy Center will be the locations for the first sessions. Please call Maria Simao at Literacy Volunteers of Connecticut for more information.

The Coalition for New Britain’s Youth was the catalyst for bringing the program to New Britain. Initial feedback for parents. Hartford Talks, an early literacy program awarded to the City by Bloomberg Philanthropies. Funds are being provided by the City of Hartford, the Fund for Greater Hartford, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, and United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut to replicate the LENA Start effort in Hartford and New Britain.

Talking, reading and singing with infants and toddlers helps them build these skills. Programs and initiatives in Hartford and New Britain are focusing on increasing the number of children who are reading on grade level by the start of fourth grade. Please spread the word and share with anyone you know who is interested in helping children learn while developing a joy of reading.

Every Day Matters. Attend TODAY, Achieve TOMORROW.

To learn more or share ideas for future newsletters, contact Latonia Tabb, Senior Manager, Talking is Teaching, Hartford Public Schools, jcrowell@hartford.gov.