



Houston Area  
Urban League



## Houston Area Urban League – Texas School Ready Project

### Our Impact

Serving more than 625 children.

Operating in 19 childcare sites across 15 zip codes.

Mentoring and Supporting 68+ practitioners and administrators.

Texas School Ready (TSR) is a comprehensive research-based birth to five model that ensures high-need at-risk children receive targeted instruction in critical school readiness skills. Thousands of early childhood programs in Texas have implemented the program since 2003. As TSR has grown, researchers at the Children's Learning Institute at the University of Texas Health Science Center have been collecting incredible amounts of data to track changes in teachers' instructional practices and advancements in their students' school readiness skills. The results of this research speak to the innovation and effectiveness of TSR.

Houston Area Urban League serves as one of 25 lead agencies for Texas School Ready. The lead agencies partner with early childhood teachers in their local communities to provide comprehensive services, including professional development, coaching, child progress monitoring, classroom curriculum and materials. Teachers enrolled in TSR participate in a comprehensive teacher training program designed to help children be better prepared for kindergarten and beyond. Multiple research studies have confirmed that Texas School Ready positively impacts teacher instructional practices in the classroom, regardless of setting (public school PreK, Head Start, and private childcare classrooms). Teachers participating in TSR Comprehensive are more responsive to the individual needs of the children in their classrooms. They show increases in their use of language-building strategies, including the quality of book reading, general conversations with children, and the use of oral language instruction to build these skills. Even greater gains have been found in emergent literacy instructional practices. Teachers also show better responsive teaching practices, organization of their centers, and the use of lesson plans.

For more information on Texas School Ready go to: <https://texasschoolready.org/> .

## Meet the TSR Team

Rachelle A. Evans, Project Coordinator - [revans@haul.org](mailto:revans@haul.org)



Rachelle Evans is a Coordinator and Coach with the Texas School Ready Project through the Children's Learning Institute at the University of Texas – Houston. Rachelle graduated from Texas Southern University with both her B.S. and M.S. in Human Services and Consumer Sciences with a focus on Child and Family Development. She is a passionate educator, mentor, and coach with over twenty-six years of experience. Rachelle provides educational expertise across the continuum to teachers and students, including birth - five, elementary and collegiate education. She was also able to participate in the Texas School Ready Project as a teacher! She considers herself a life-long learner, striving for continuous growth, professionally and personally. Rachelle loves spending time with family and watching her 5-year-old son Raxton grow and develop.

Traci L. Henry (Johnson), Coach - [thentry@haul.org](mailto:thentry@haul.org)



Traci Henry (Johnson) is a coach with the Texas School Ready program through the Children's Learning Institute at the University of Texas -Houston. Traci graduated from Texas Southern University with her B.S. in Human Services and Consumer Sciences with the focus on Family and Child Development. Traci received her M.S. in Teacher's Leadership from the University of Phoenix.

For thirty plus years Traci has worked with families and children. Traci taught for eight years as a Head Start teacher. Traci is also a Director for Uniquely Chosen Program (DBA) where she trains teachers and administrators in the childcare setting. Eight months ago, Traci took on the

challenge to mentor teachers. This has been very rewarding because Traci likes to help and guide teachers to be the best they can be for themselves and children. She will continue to be a learner and educator. Traci's motto is all children can learn.