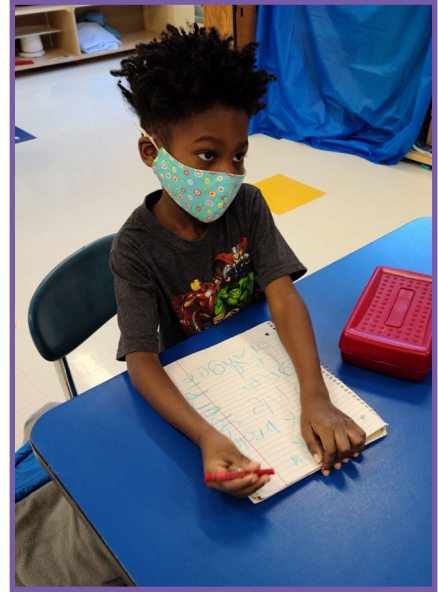
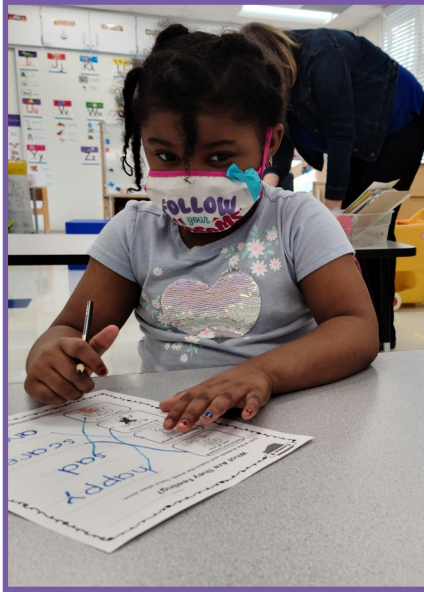




A DuPage Foundation Initiative



Bright and Early DuPage

Annual Report FY2020

Bright & Early DuPage, an initiative of DuPage Foundation, is a unique program designed to leverage area resources to ensure that all DuPage children from birth to age 5 receive the comprehensive support critical in preparing them for success in kindergarten and beyond.

Community by community, Bright & Early DuPage is engaging and uniting local organizations and individuals in collaboration to build awareness for and facilitate access to early childhood education and support services for DuPage children and their families. Bright & Early DuPage also serves as a voice for early learning and child-friendly policies at all levels of government.

Vision

Every DuPage child will be ready to succeed in kindergarten.

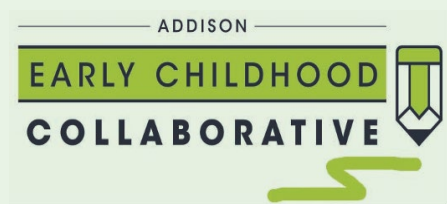
Mission Statement

To build sustainable, coordinated, local early childhood systems that actively work to increase access to quality education and support for children and families with limited resources.

Impacting Communities By Preparing Children For Kindergarten



“We are grateful to DuPage Foundation for its support that has enabled our partnership group to be in place for several years. Had the AECC not been in place as a community hub, able to coordinate immediate collaborative action, hundreds of fragile families (impacted by poverty, unemployment, or being “essential workers”) would not have been able to meet all their basic needs for food, diapers and wipes, or to access critical family support services.”



- Mary Haley

Project Director, Addison Early Childhood Collaborative

Studies show the single most important thing a community can do to prepare for the future is to educate children. Families are eager for their children to succeed. But for families who live in poverty, who may be immigrants and don't speak the language well, who lack basic transportation and/or who have never experienced a supportive family network, the struggle is real. For these families, a simple thing like preparing a four-year-old for kindergarten can seem an insurmountable task. These families need our help. That's where Bright & Early DuPage comes in.

Bright & Early DuPage funds networks that bring together social services, school districts, private and public daycares and other organizations on the front lines working with children. Bright & Early DuPage is a game-changer.

Joan Morrissey is a member of the DuPage Foundation Board of Trustees and serves on the Bright & Early DuPage Committee. She said,

“The collaboratives have been a critical lifeline for these parents. They've been able to connect these families who desperately needed food, shelter, clothing, medicine and more. These families have a lot of fear, but they've learned to trust us. Through the collaboratives, they're getting educational assistance to help their kids prepare for school. It's providing screenings for delays and issues which are so correctable with early interventions. We're really showing impact. We know that it's essential and it's working to help the whole community and all our schools do better.”

“Investing in early childhood development of disadvantaged children will produce great returns to individuals and society in better education, health, economic and social outcomes – not only saving taxpayers money but increasing our nation's economic productivity.”

- James Heckman, Nobel Prize Winner

Seven Collaborative Networks

- **DuPage Early Childhood Collaboration (DECC)**
DECC is the county-wide umbrella organization that works with the local collaboratives in DuPage County, six of which are funded by Bright & Early DuPage including:

- Addison Early Childhood Collaborative
- Bensenville Early Learning Supporters
- Birth to 5 Community Coalition (*Bloomington, Carol Stream and Hanover Park*)
- Glenbard Early Childhood Collaborative
- Wheaton/Warrenville Early Childhood Collaborative
- Willowbrook Corner Coalition

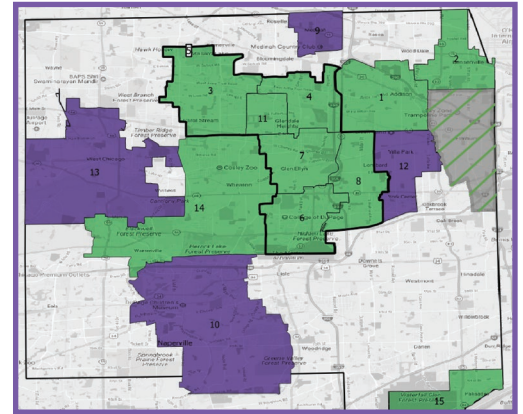
Legend

Bright & Early Grantee

 No

 Yes

 Newly added to Bensenville Collaborative in FY20



Building Trust



Reaching out, promoting and engaging with families builds the trust needed to provide the services that ensure little ones are getting the support they need. It starts with trust. Regular home visits promote positive parenting practices that help parents better prepare their children for school. There were 1,083 home visiting slots in FY20, a 55% increase over the past two years.

Connecting with Families



The first step in improved outcomes is finding new families who need help. The six collaborative networks identified and screened 2,050 children in FY20, a 26% increase over FY19.

Screening for Developmental Delays



Developmental delays in children can derail educational achievements. Early intervention can change a child's developmental path and can often reduce the long-term effects of a disability or delay if needs are identified early. In FY20, 43% of children screened for special needs or developmental delays were referred for intervention. Many conditions are correctable and the child goes on to a successful educational experience. 878 children were referred for intervention in FY20, a 52% increase.

Increasing Access to Quality Programs



FY20 saw a 6% increase in the number of children enrolled in publicly-funded early childhood programs, which is 121 more than in FY19. It happened with diligence, commitment and relationship-building.

Strengthening Communities



Research shows that children who participate in quality early learning experiences during their first five years of life are better prepared to succeed in kindergarten which ultimately puts them on the path for lifelong success.

Raising Quality of Life for All



Helping those with the fewest resources raises the level of education for the entire class thus impacting every child's educational career. Ultimately, everyone living in the community enjoys a raised quality of life when every child is prepped and ready for kindergarten.



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For more information or to make a gift to the initiative, please contact:

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