

2021-2022



Annual Report

Highlights



BIG PICTURE

- Teacher recruitment and retention initiatives
- Numerous financial supports for providers
- Additional ELC funding to clear wait list
- ELC leadership retirements, staff transitions

ISSUES IMPACTING SERVICE

- Ebb and flow of capacity issues, loss of classrooms seems permanent
- Assist providers in planning and anticipating for legislative changes
- Complexity of provider hiring practices

A LOOK AT NUMBERS

1647 SR children served
1767 VPK children served
142 Contracted providers

PARENT ENGAGEMENT

- In-person events resumed, reaching hundreds of parents
- Storybook Street, Holiday Parade, Halloween and UTC events
- Increased targeted marketing utilizing key partners

PROVIDER TRAINING

- Weekly Director's Connection continued
- Resumed core comprehensive trainings, added new
- ELC relauches and now hosts FCCPC program with STC
- Expansion of highly-successful LENA Grow literacy program

BOOKS, BOOKS AND MORE BOOKS!

- Literacy Buddy: 280 volunteers ~ 25 preschools ~ 536 children
- Pilot of new literacy program, *Read Learn Dream* with SKKC
- CWRS: 4,000 books ~ 35 preschools ~ 3 distributions

NOTEWORTHY

- Rebranded and revamped ASPIRE adding hybrid, tiered training
- Storybook Street: 6,000 books ~ 600 children, now a signature event
- First time in 10 years, cleared wait-list and serve families in real time



ELC Impact Metrics 2022



Childcare Funding

- **\$6.6 Million** in direct childcare assistance for income-eligible families with children ages birth to 5
- **1,730 Children** supported with childcare financial assistance
- **\$3.9 Million** in VPK funding serving 1,767 students in this FREE program for 4-year-olds
- **\$474,300 in Retention Bonuses** coordinated and distributed by ELC staff to 535 preschool teachers
- **130 Providers** received millions in special grants, managed by the ELC, to bolster industry
- **42 Childcare Sites** received post-hurricane funds to reopen, through local, state and national grants. All coordinated by ELC
- **Less Than 5%** in ELC administrative costs, with a staff of 21



Quality Early Learning

- **100% of Local ELC Providers** meet the minimum state threshold on quality assessment. 60% score in the top tiers
- **98% Statistically Significant Gains** shown in both teachers and children involved in ELC-led "LENA Grow," a research-based early literacy and language program
- **75% of Infant/Toddler Teacher** participants in the ELC-exclusive "Star Babies" program showed improvement in specialty skill set
- **7,500 Books Distributed** through preschool classrooms and community events to build children's home libraries. Lesson plans or in-home activities included



Early Education Sector Support

- **632 Preschool Teachers** (70% of local sector workforce) participated in ELC's comprehensive professional development programs. 100% showed skill set gains
- **109 New Teachers** recruited and trained in a 7-month period to address severe childcare staff shortages. Accomplished by ELC's targeted initiative "ASPIRE"
- **Resurrected Critical Credential Program (FCCPC)** and trained 16 teachers in our first cohort, managed and taught by ELC staff
- **Robust Mental Health Support** through "warmlines" responses to children's behavioral concerns and teacher stresses



Community Outreach

- **Hosted 2nd Signature Event "Storybook Street."** Bringing books to life through arts collaborations serving more than 600 children in a 3 hour period. Each family received 17 books
- **Dozens of Business Partnerships** for preschool makeovers, school supply drives, family nights, event preparation, and more
- **Vibrant Volunteer Involvement** in our "Literacy Buddy Project" with 300 individuals of all ages exchanging letters and books with 530 children throughout the year
- **Targeted Outreach Opportunities** offer resources on childcare services, mental health supports, child development, early literacy, and beyond