

EDUCATION INITIATIVES

HELPING CHILDREN AND YOUTH ACHIEVE THEIR POTENTIAL



THE CHALLENGE:

- Research is clear that children need high quality early learning experiences and proper parental nurturing to be ready for kindergarten and succeed in school.
- This region has more than 250,000 children under the age of 5, and they all need high quality early learning experiences. However, less than 24% of the more than 1,000 child care centers in the region are rated “high quality” by the Pennsylvania Keystone STAR quality rating system.
- Parents are their children’s first teachers and need guidance and support to provide a safe, caring and quality learning environment at home.

United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania’s mission is to harness, leverage and strategically invest the collective power of donors, advocates and volunteers, to drive measurable results that improve the lives of people in our region.

EDUCATION: SUCCESS BY 6[®]

OUR GOAL: United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania helps children enter school ready to learn.

OUR STRATEGIES:

- Provide child care centers with coaching, financial support and professional development to improve the quality of early learning experiences offered to young children.
- Provide additional leadership and financial support to ensure that child care centers that have achieved high quality levels can sustain them.
- Provide better nurturing techniques in the home by supporting on-going, formalized parenting education programs.
- Increase the professional skills of those working with our young children and their families by supporting the Institute for Family Professionals program that provides professional development training to early childhood educators.
- Advocate for increased public support for high quality early childhood education.



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OUR IMPACT:

- In less than 5 years, more than half of the child care centers that completed our quality improvement program have achieved a Keystone STAR 3 or 4 rating, the highest levels in Pennsylvania's quality rating and improvement system.
- Created a cadre of 200 early childhood and parenting educators who are better trained to help our young children have enhanced learning experiences.
- More than 1,500 young children have been impacted by their parents' participation in parenting education programs.
- Established the Delaware Valley Regional Early Learning Business Council, whose purpose is to promote the importance and benefits of high quality early childhood education.


OUR WORK

GOALS FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS:

- 60 additional child care centers will achieve a Keystone STAR 3 or 4 high quality rating, ensuring that 4,000 more young children can participate in high quality early learning experiences. .
- 100% of all child care centers enrolled in Success by 6 @will maintain their high quality rating, thereby ensuring our children have the best chance to succeed.
- 600 additional early childhood and parenting educators will have improved skills and knowledge in working with parents of young children.
- Our Delaware Valley Regional Early Learning Business Council will be successful in advocating that the state's early learning programs will maintain their current funding levels.



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