



Durham's Early Childhood System Framework

Science tells us that children's early experiences can create a strong or weak foundation for all future learning, behavior and health. The achievement gap begins well before kindergarten, with many children entering school without basic social, emotional and cognitive skills to perform in school. In Durham, the responsibility of school readiness is shared among an early childhood system that includes families, professionals and the community. A comprehensive continuum of early childhood programs and initiatives supports children and families to be strong and healthy.

Needs

Ready Communities

- Economic security
- Quality early care and education
- Health services

Ready Families

- Safe and supportive environments
- Caring and consistent relationships
- Opportunities for learning

Ready Schools

- Parent involvement
- Transition all students into school
- Aligned from preschool to grade 3

Goals

Ensure access to high-quality programs for all children and families to close the achievement gap and increase school readiness.

Increase early childhood resources and visibility.

Mobilize community partners and key stakeholders to build a comprehensive continuum of early childhood services.

Strategies

Provide high-quality programming in Early Care and Education, Health and Early Intervention, and Family Support and Literacy.

Increase awareness of the importance of Early Childhood Education in the community.

Increase resources to expand high quality and innovative programs to meet community needs.

Invest in long-term activities and initiatives with the business community, medical and faith partners and the public school system.

Impact Areas

Children will be ready for success in school and life in the key areas of development:

- Approaches to Learning
- Cognitive
- Emotional and Social
- Health and Physical
- Language and Communication

Early Childhood Infrastructure

Administrative Leadership; Program Evaluation and Monitoring; Fiscal and Contract Management; Community Awareness; Research, Policy and Advocacy; Resource Development; and High-Quality Pre-Kindergarten (including More at Four, Title I and Head Start)

Comprehensive early childhood system provides continuum of early childhood programs and initiatives to support children and families to be healthy and strong.

Community Initiatives and Collaborative Projects

- Children's Endowment
- Children's Savings Accounts
- Collaborative Fund Development
- Community Infant/Toddler Initiative
- Docs For Tots NC
- Early Childhood Faith Initiative
- East Durham Children's Initiative
- Health Check Improvement Task Force
- Results Based Accountability (RBA) Children's Committee
- Transition To Kindergarten Initiative

Durham's Partnership for Children, a Smart Start Initiative (DPfC)



DPfC functions as the catalyst, convener and facilitator of Durham's early childhood system.

Mission

To mobilize and unify the Durham community to create and support innovative and successful collaborative approaches to serving the needs of children birth to 5 years of age and their families.

Partnership Board of Directors and Committees

- Executive Committee
- Allocations Committee
- Community Awareness & Development Committee
- Corporate Champions for Children Council
- Evaluation Committee
- Finance/Audit Committee
- Investment Committee
- School Readiness/More at Four Committee

Funded Partners

Child Health and Early Intervention

- Durham Inclusion Support Services
- Early Childhood Outreach Project (EChO)
- Hispanic/Latino Family Consultation Services
- Nutrition Consultation

Early Care and Education

- Child Care Quality Enhancement
- Child Care Quality Maintenance
- Choosing and Using Quality Child Care
- Grow A Teacher
- More at Four
- Smart Start Scholarship Program
- Subsidy Administration Support
- TEACH Early Childhood® AmeriCorps Program
- WAGES®

Family Support

- Family Support Program (El Centro Hispano)
- Healthy Families Durham
- Welcome Baby Family Resource Center