



East Carroll Early Childhood Network Blueprint

It's easier and less expensive to provide access to quality early care and education right from the start. Doing so ensures that our youngest learners have brain building experiences that prepare them for school and lifelong success.

-Amy Clancy, Director of Early Childhood Children's Coalition for Northeast Louisiana

[8/17/2022]

Introduction

The East Carroll Early Childhood Network is a coalition of early care and education providers working together to provide high quality early learning experiences for the parish's youngest learners. The coalition is comprised of early care and education programs; Head Start, school system, and childcare committed to creating and implementing a unique vision for early childhood. Driven by the unique needs of the community to improve opportunities and inspire change for children birth to five.

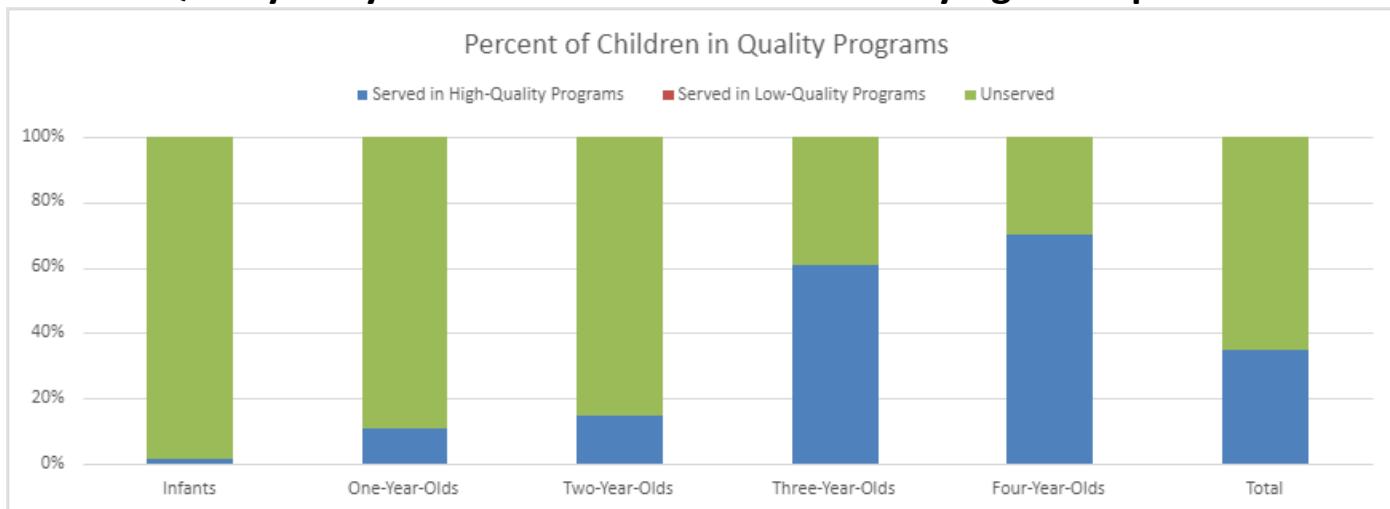
The future of East Carroll parish is dependent on the success of its children and families. Together we have an opportunity to transform the future of our parish in one generation. Access to quality early care and education programs ensure parents keep working or complete higher education and that children are on track to a brighter future.

Research on early brain development indicates that 90% of brain development occurs by age four. That means if we wait to provide quality early care and education until age four when most children arrive to preschool, we have missed out on the most critical period of human development.

Two out of three children ages birth to five in Louisiana have both parents or their single parent in the workforce.
-Louisiana Policy Institute for Children

East Carroll parish has critical gaps in access to quality early care and education for our communities' youngest learners. In 2020-2021 only 13% of Infants and Toddlers, and 38% of Threes had access to quality early care and education programs. Increased access to reliable, quality early care and education is a necessity to ensure our local economy thrives today and tomorrow. Our community has critical gaps in access to quality early care and education for our communities' youngest learners.

Access to Quality Early Childhood East Carroll Parish by Age Group 2020 – 2021



Guiding Statement

Statement: Children in East Carroll Parish will enter kindergarten healthy and ready for school.

Strategic Plan

Goal 1: Increase access to early care and education opportunities for Infants, Toddlers and Threes, Enrollment for the birth to age three has increased by 40 children by 2026.

Strategies:

- Evaluate availability of current Infant, Toddler and Three-year-old seats by age and location with monthly child count
- Identify high quality early learning centers with space and desire to add additional PDG Birth to Three seats
- Submit Coordinated Funding request for Wee Learners 2022-2023 Birth to Three seats
- Explore possible options for local fundraising options targeting local business to support improved access for Birth to Three aged children

Resources:

Existing

- Wee Learners Performance Profile Excellent for 20-21 year, uses Tier 1 Creative Curriculum and has certified lead teachers
- Wee Learners requested 8 PDG B to 3 seats for the 2022-2023 school year
- Community Supply Building Access and Expansion Coordinator

Needed

- Birth to Three seats funding for 8 seats for 2022-2023 year
- Explore partnership with Family Child Care home providers from FCC Pilot program to expand Birth to Three seats in 2022-2023 year

- Work to expand access to areas of parish where early care and education is inaccessible

Performance Metrics: Enrollment for birth to age three age group has increased by 40 children, based on the 2026 school year data determined by annual enrollment and child count data as of October 1st of each year.

Annual Progress Update: Wee Learners awarded 8 PDG B to 3 seats for the 2022-2023 school year.

Goal 2: Increase access to quality ECE for four-year old children, all publicly funded Pre-K four sites are High Proficient or Excellent on 2022-2023 EC Performance Profiles.

Strategies:

- Instructional Support kits and training
- CLASS Intro to Pre-K training
- Conscious Discipline training
- Infant/Toddler CLASS MMCI
- Pre-K MMCI
- Early Childhood Coach & Trainer provides support for teachers and leaders on request

Resources: Early Childhood Coach & Trainer on staff certified in Teachstone CLASS teacher assessment tool, MMCI (Making the Most of CLASSroom Interactions), TS GOLD ongoing child assessment

Existing

- MMCI certified Train the Trainer on staff
- CLASS certified Train the Trainer on staff
- Existing partnerships with Child Care Connections/CCR&R
- East Carroll Schools preschool classrooms currently use Creative Curriculum
- Community Supply Building Access and Expansion Coordinator

Needed

- Professional development for East Carroll Schools preschool teachers to support effective use of Tier 1 Creative Curriculum

Performance Metrics: All preschool programs score high proficient or excellent on the CLASS tool by 2022-2023

Annual Progress Update: Training and instructional support kits were provided on Instructional Support to preschool teachers, Spring 2021. CLASS Intro to Pre-K provided Fall 2021. Training on Conscious Discipline provided to teacher Spring 2021. CLASS MMCI for Pre-K provided in Spring 2022

Goal 3: Increase awareness of available early care and education program options by 40% by 2023.

Strategies

- Marketing Campaign - TV ads, Radio ads, Digital Ads, Social media, Posters, flyers

- Host a Round-up Kickoff Event for parents in advance of Early Childhood Preschool Round-Up
- Share Child Care Connections Choosing Quality Child Care checklist
- Community Supply and Access Parent Focus Group

Resources:

Existing

- Met with marketing team to create marketing plan
- Community Supply Building and Access Expansion Coordinator

Needed

- Marketing Campaign to build awareness of what high quality early childhood is
- Community meetings with local stakeholders to raise awareness of partnerships with The Children's Coalition of Northeast Louisiana & East Carroll Early Childhood Community Network, early childhood and preschool options available locally and community impact

Performance Metrics: Community and parent survey data, Coordinated Enrollment parent survey data, Marketing data, Parent Focus Group notes

Annual Progress Update: Early Childhood Network flyers were distributed at Round Up Kick Off event throughout the community (ex. Developmental Corners at Health Unit and Library). Parent Focus Group held in January 2022. Community and Parent Survey conducted in Fall 2021. Coordinated Enrollment parent survey conducted in June 2022.

Goal 4: Community network and programs partners will hold at least 2 family engagements events annually.

Strategies.

- Parent Focus Group held in January 2022
- Developmental Corners installed at East Carroll Parish Health Unit and Library
- Developmental Play Kits distributed to East Carroll Parish Health Unit and Library
- Coordinated Enrollment Community Event
- Past Family Engagement Events at Program Partner sites: Muffins with Mom, Donuts with Dad, Men & Children Day, Make & Take Activity, Mardi Gras Neighborhood parade

Resources:

Existing

- Desire to create activities that will engage families throughout the parish.

Needed

- Calendar of community events happening throughout the parish
- Community events to partner with
- Resources to assist in implementing events at program partner sites
- Community partnerships to build little libraries, developmental corners and distribute developmental play kits

Performance Metrics: We will know this goal is met when community network and program partners hold at least 2 family engagement events annually in East Carroll parish.

Annual Progress Update: Program partners collaborated in June 2022 on potential ways to engage families with different activities or events at their sites.

Goal 5: Conduct developmental screenings for every child aged birth to 3 years old enrolled in early childhood programs in the network by 2023-2024 school year.

Strategies:

- Conduct developmental screenings – ASQ-3 for Infants and Toddlers upon enrollment in Type 3 childcare centers
- Referral to early intervention (ex. Early Steps, School Systems, private therapists) as needed based on screenings results
- Training on how to conduct ASQ-3
- Training on Early Steps referral process
- Training on Red Flags for developmental delays and how to refer out for intervention services.
- Parent Handout – Developmental milestones map with early intervention resources and contacts, Early Steps, School System with step by steps what to expect overview. Consider including Families Helping Families contact for families who are interested in having an advocate to assist them through the process.
- Ensure all new teachers are trained in ASQ-3 and referral processes.
- ASQ-3 offered during consultation with Early Childhood Guide and Birth to Three Coordinator

Resources:

Existing

- Childcare centers desire to ensure developmental delays are identified as early as possible so that children have increased access to early intervention services.
- Partnership with Early Steps
- Staff that are trained in ASQ-3 Train the Trainer
- Developmental Screening Initiative Coordinator

Needed

- Trainings scheduled or accessible to sites in parish
- Consistent step by step process for conducting screenings as part of intake and enrollment

Performance Metrics: We will know this goal is met when we increase referrals for children aged Birth to Three years old by 10%.

Annual Progress Update: 2021-2022 Ready Start Network Coordinator, statewide Pediatric Developmental Health Coordinator, and Child Care Resource & Referral Coach began collaborating to create policies for implementing the ASQ-3 and improve the quality of screenings completed. The timeline anticipated for training and implementing the screenings will be April and May 2022.