



More Opportunities Reaching Early Learners

Ready Start Morehouse  
Blueprint

DRAFT

[12/17/19]

## Introduction

Ready Start Morehouse is a community coalition committed to creating and implementing a bold local vision for early childhood. We are driven by the unique needs of the community to improve access to quality early care and education for our communities' youngest learners. The future of Morehouse Parish is dependent on the success of its children. Together we have an opportunity to transform the future of our parish in one generation. As a community we have a shared responsibility to support the workforce of today while preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

According to the Early Childhood Risk and Reach Winter 2016; 32% of children in Morehouse parish entering Kindergarten in in Fall 2015 scored *Intensive Intervention* on the DIBELS which is a pre-literacy assessment used to determine risk for literacy outcomes. Too many children in our community are arriving to school with out the readiness skills they need to be successful. By increasing access to quality early care and education we can ensure that more children arrive to school ready to start.

***Building a brain is like building a house. It's easier and less expensive if it's done right from the start. Rewiring an old house can be done, but it's going to take longer, it will be more expensive, and it still may not work as well as the wiring of a new house.***

Research on early brain development indicates that 90% of brain development occurs by age four. That means that if we are waiting 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.

***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.***

Morehouse parish has critical gaps in access to quality early care and education for our communities' youngest learners. In 2018-2019 only 16% of Infant and Toddlers had access to quality early care and education programs. Investing in Infants and Toddlers is key to the success of our community today and tomorrow.

### Early Childhood Access & Access to Quality in Morehouse Parish (create this as a bar graph)

Age Group	Access 18-19	Quality Access 18-19
Infants	2%	1%
Ones	10%	8%
Twos	8%	7%
Threes	40%	39%
Fours	76%	76%

*Critical Gaps in Infant and Toddler care.*

*\*Data from Morehouse Network Performance Profile 2018-2019*

## Guiding Statements

Vision: Greater potential for our youngest learners. Or More Opportunities Reaching Early Learners

Mission: Provide access to quality early care and education for children and families by increasing program support and community engagement.

### Program support

- PD – coaching & training (MMCI, conscious discipline, TBRI, Frog street)
- Funding for seats
- Bonuses for high performing teachers (high proficient/excellent)
- Curriculum for site that don't have it
- CLASSroom materials

### Community Engagement

- Advisory Council --- reps from across the parish from different roles biz, non-profit, faith based, local gov/mayor's office, Super, etc...
- Community Early Childhood guide – ECE, health, medical, Kidz 1<sup>st</sup>, Early Steps,

## Strategic Plan

### Goal 1: Improve quality of early care and education programs.

- Ready Start Coach for all programs (CLASS, Curriculum, GOLD)
- MMCI coaching for all Pre-K classrooms
- MMCI coaching for all I/T classrooms
- Curriculum for all classrooms and sites
- CLASSroom Materials
- Professional development training (conscious discipline, TBRI, Frog Street)
- Annual bonuses for high performing teachers (high proficient/excellent)

### Resources:

- Existing: Ready Start Coach certified MMCI PreK & I/T, Pre-K and I/T Train the Trainer, Resources and Materials Grant opportunity,
- Needed: *SRTC Funding - Bonuses for high performing teachers (high proficient/excellent)*

Performance Metrics: CLASS Scores/Performance Profiles – all programs high proficient or excellent

### Goal 2: Increase community demand for quality early care and education overall, with a focus on Infant and Toddler care.

- Partner with Kidz 1<sup>st</sup> for Community Kickoff – Educate community on Quality ECE, Brain development, Child Development (What does quality look like? This, not that.)

- Marketing Campaign- Digital Ads, Social media, What does quality look like? This, not that.

Resources:

- Existing: Kidz 1<sup>st</sup> Morehouse community partners have already laid the foundation for community education. Community partners are already knowledgeable of early child development. Additionally, Parents As Teachers, Early Steps and Morehouse Health Communities are on board and already working with families and the community.
- Needed: Marketing consultation, re-branding

Performance Metrics:

**Goal 3: Increase access to early care and education opportunities for Infants and toddlers in Morehouse parish.**

- Evaluate availability of current I/T slots by age and location with Monthly child count.
- Identify potential sites to add additional slots
- Request PDG funding for B-3 seats
- Explore EHS funding options

Resources:

- Existing:
- Needed:

Performance Metrics: Increased enrollment of Infant and Toddlers.

**Goal 4: Increase referrals to Early Steps with follow up.**

- Conduct developmental screenings / ASQ's for Infants and Toddlers enrolled in Type III childcare centers and FCC Pilot Providers. Referral to Early Steps as needed based on screenings completed.
- Training on how to conduct ASQ's (Julie)
- Training on Early Steps referral process (Tracy Crump and/or Ceria Dunn)
- Training on Red Flags for developmental delays and how to refer out for intervention services.

Resources:

- Existing: Early Steps and Kidz 1<sup>st</sup> Morehouse, FCC Pilot providers
- Needed: Trainings as listed above.

Performance Metrics: Increase by 10% in two years.