



Ready Start Richland
Blueprint

DRAFT

[1/10/20]

Introduction

Ready Start Richland is a community coalition 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 Richland 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.

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.

Two out of Three children ages birth to five in Louisiana have both parents or their single parent in the workforce. Richland parish has critical gaps in access to quality early care and education for our communities' youngest learners. In 2018-2019 only 5% of Infant and Toddlers 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.

Early Childhood Access & Access to Quality in Richland 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%	38%
Fours	76%	76%

Critical Gaps in Infant and Toddler care.

**Data from Richland Network Performance Profile 2018-2019*

2 out of 3 children ages birth to five in Louisiana have both parents or their single parent in the workforce. Increased access to reliable, quality early care and education is a necessity to ensure our local economy thrives today and tomorrow.

Guiding Statements

Vision: Enriching children from the ground up.

Mission: Prepare the current and the future workforce by making quality early care and education accessible to children Birth to 5 and their families, supporting teachers, and increasing knowledge of community members about the value of early childhood.

Strategic Plan

Goal 1: Improve quality of the early care and education opportunities.

- Ready Start Coach for all programs (CLASS, Curriculum, GOLD)
- MMCI coaching for all Pre-K classrooms
- MMCI coaching for all I/T classrooms
- All ECE classrooms with Tier 1 Curricula

Resources:

- Existing: Applied to LDE for Classroom Materials funds for all ECE programs, Center Improvement Grants was provided to Type II childcare centers
- Needed: Curricula for Tender Touch 2

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.

- Marketing Campaign- Digital Ads, Social media, What does quality look like? This, not that.
- One sheet to communicate in simple format with visual the vision and primary goals of Ready Start Richland.

Resources:

- Existing: Blueprint, Trusted messengers
- Needed: One sheet, Marketing consultation, re-branding

Performance Metrics: Increased B-3 enrollment by 100+ children within 2 years.

Goal 3: Increase access to early care and education opportunities for Infants and toddlers

- 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 if needed

Resources:

- Existing: Tender Touch 2 and Little Feathers childcare centers have a desire and open space to increase services for Infants, Toddlers and Threes.

- Needed: The barrier to serving in-need Infants, Toddlers and Threes in Richland parish is not the availability of spots in childcare centers, but the funding for the spots that already exist. Both Tender Touch 2 and Little Feathers currently have classrooms that are empty because parents are unable afford to pay for care.

Performance Metrics: Increased B-3 enrollment by 100+ children within 2 years.

DRAFT