



ThrivebyFive™
WASHINGTON

THRIVE COMMUNITIES

White Center and East Yakima

Brenda Blasingame
Thrive by Five Washington

Media Workshop on Early Learning
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Overview

Local approaches designed to ...

- strengthen and build on existing early learning efforts whether a child is at home with a parent or caregiver, in traditional child care, or in a preschool
- serve as a model – “proof points” – for a community-wide approach to early learning
- create a coordinated network of high-quality early learning opportunities for all children birth to age 5 to improve their development and readiness to enter kindergarten and be successful.

Two Thrive Communities

- White Center: White Center Early Learning Initiative
- East Yakima: Ready by Five

- Too many children in White Center and East Yakima enter kindergarten unprepared and are behind on day one. They are at risk for school failure, with substantial proportions of those entering kindergarten achieving at levels significantly below national norms.
 - 54% of children assessed for vocabulary skills scored significantly behind their national same-age peers.
 - 40% of children assessed for simple pre-math skills also scored significantly below the level found nationally for children at the beginning of kindergarten.

- Many families face challenges that could affect later school success such as poverty, single-parent households, mothers with less than a high school diploma or GED, and a first language that is not English.
- Parents say getting good services for their family is a challenge because of...
 - language and cultural issues
 - lack of transportation
 - long waiting lists
 - lack of understanding if they even qualify for services
 - fear and mistrust of government.

The many differences between the two Thrive Communities are valued, but at the heart of both communities are a set of shared principals, priorities and core components driving their work.

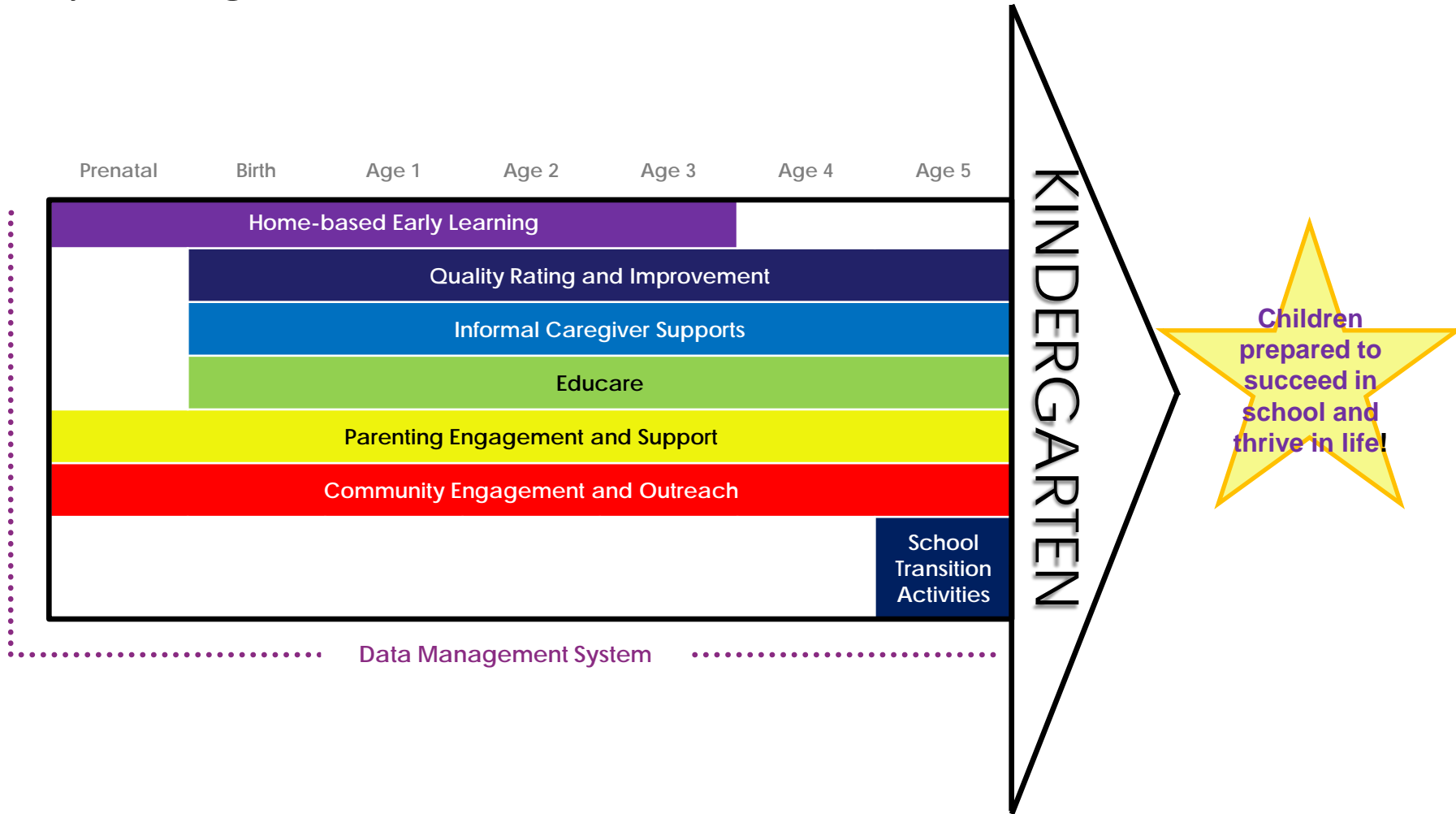


- Focus on the whole child's development in five domains: physical development, social and emotional development, language acquisition, approaches to learning and cognitive development.
- Reach children and families where they already spend their time. All environments can provide high-quality early learning experiences for children.
- Ensure that parents and children who are most in need of services participate.
- Promote excellence by evaluating rigorously to demonstrate results and using new knowledge to refine programs and approaches.

A Coordinated Network of Services and Resources



Key strategies used in the Thrive Communities



White Center Early Learning Initiative



Highlights

- Broke ground on **Educare Learning Center at Greenbridge** and began staff training
- Launched the beginning of a coordinated **Home Visitation approach** that supports families from pregnancy through the time their child turns 2
- Participating in testing approaches to improve the quality of childcare in licensed settings
- Piloting **Enhanced First Steps**, a higher-intensity home visiting program that provides families, if needed, with weekly visits for up to two years
- Working on plan to provide support to informal caregivers (Family, Friends and Neighbors)
- Creating **Outreach Doula Program**



Ready by Five (East Yakima)

Highlights

- Piloted the **Kindergarten Transition Program** in three east Yakima elementary schools for about 300 children before the school year started.
- Launched **Creative Families**, a monthly program that has been drawing up to 100 to 120 parents and children who want to learn more about how to engage in activities with their children and projects that they can do at home.
- Participating in testing approaches to improve the quality of childcare in licensed settings
- Piloting **Enhanced First Steps**, a higher-intensity home visiting program that provides families, if needed, with weekly visits for up to two years.
- Working on plan to provide support to informal caregivers (Family, Friends and Neighbors).
- Creating **Promotores Community Worker Program**



We'll be conducting a rigorous, long-term evaluation of programs in White Center and East Yakima over the next decade.

“Better Beginnings: A Look at Early Learning and Kindergarten Readiness in White Center and East Yakima” Baseline Report for Thrive Communities online: www.thrivebyfivewa.org

We expect it will take the communities at least three to five years to see evidence of what is effective in creating early learning opportunities for children birth to age 5.

Contacts



- Brenda Blasingame
Director of Programs, Thrive by Five Washington
206.621.5568 brenda@thrivebyfivewa.org
- Helen Marieskind
Executive Director, Ready by Five (East Yakima)
509.454.2492 helenm@readybyfive.org
- Stephan Blanford
Executive Director, White Center Early Learning Initiative
206.917.7625 sblanford@psed.org