

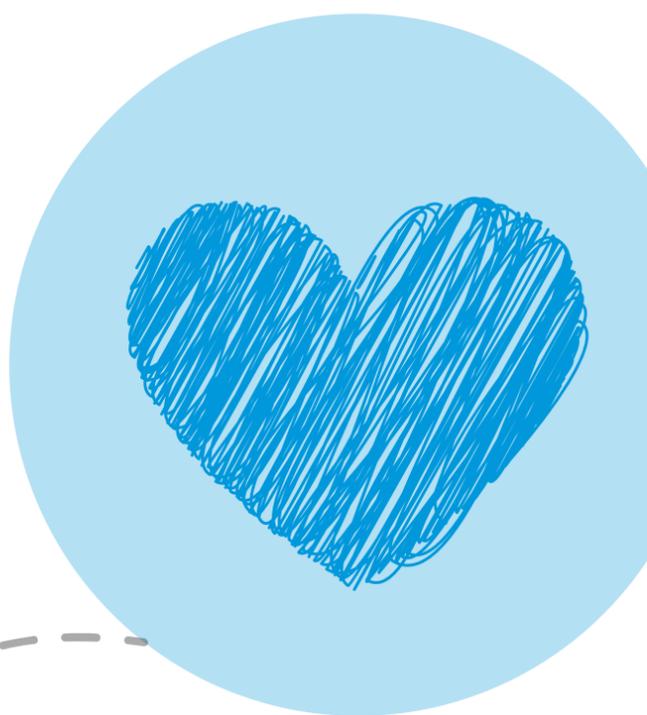
BRIGHT BEGINNINGS

PREPARING FOR SCHOOL STARTS AT BIRTH

NURTURING RELATIONSHIPS

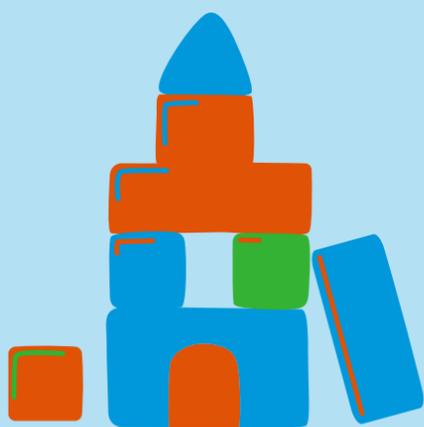
Children's relationships shape the way they see the world and affect all areas of their development. Through relationships with parents, other family members and caregivers, children learn about their world.

That's because relationships let children express themselves – a cry, a laugh, a question – and get something back – a cuddle, a smile, an answer. What children 'get back' gives them very important information about what the world is like and how to act in the world – how to think, understand, communicate, behave, show emotions and develop social skills.¹



THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAY

Play is one of the most important steps in a child's development. Playing is more than just fun, it is how children explore the world, learn and develop, and build self-confidence. Play gives children different sensory, physical and cognitive experiences. Experiences build connections in the brain, which helps children develop physically, cognitively, socially and emotionally.²



LANGUAGE & LITERACY

Learning to communicate through gestures, sounds, and words increases a child's interest in—and later understanding of—books and reading. Talking, reading aloud, and singing all stimulate children's understanding and use of language, and help them learn to become good communicators and eager readers.^{1,2}



HAS YOUR CHILD HAD THEIR ROUTINE DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING? GIVE SPARK A CALL!

WHY EARLY LEARNING MATTERS

A strong foundation to succeed in school and life starts in a child's earliest years which is why early learning is so important. Children who enter kindergarten without early social, math and literacy skills will likely remain behind their peers throughout their education.

HOW WE CAN HELP

Through SPARK's Gateways to Early Childhood Programs initiative our bilingual(English/Spanish) Family Engagement Team offers free developmental screenings, they can help with enrollment into infant and toddler programs, assist with completing the Child Care Assistance Program application, and connect you to local resources to help ensure your family and child have everything they need to succeed in school and beyond.

Contact our Family Engagement Team:

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Fox Valley United Way

Early Childhood Collaboration



Strong, Prepared And Ready for Kindergarten