Early Learning Initiatives

Early Learning programs serve children from birth through third grade, a crucial period in childhood development. United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania supports critical initiatives that are working to strengthen cognitive, social and emotional development for our local children so they can start out strong.

**MEASURABLE IMPACT**

13,000+ children registered on time for kindergarten

4,200+ of pre-school age children in Westmoreland and Fayette Counties participated in transition to kindergarten programs

More than 70,000 books were distributed to eager young readers in the past year

Early Learning nurtures each child to succeed academically, equips parents and caregivers with the tools and resources to build school readiness and ensures kids are registered on-time for kindergarten and reading proficiently by third grade.

**UNITED WAY IS DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE EARLY LEARNING STRATEGY THAT:**

- Ensures that young children are school ready, by promoting high-quality early care and education that allows children to enter school prepared and ready to learn
- Promotes and educates children, families and the community about the importance of on-time kindergarten registration through the Hi5! Initiative
- Encourages parents and caregivers to read to their children with programs like Raising Readers in Westmoreland County that provide the guidance and tools needed to build skills
- Supports children in gaining proficient reading skills by the end of third grade, a key indicator of on-time high school graduation
- Will put 100,000 books in the hands of young children from 2016 to 2019