



Small But Mighty
90% of a child's brain development occurs by age 5, and birth to age 3 is the fastest rate of brain development across his/her entire life span.

Time Goes So Fast
There are only 2,000 days between the time a baby is born and when he/she starts kindergarten.

One Thing Leads to Another
Progress made during the first 5 years of a child's life is extremely predictive of future school successes and struggles. Kindergarten readiness predicts 3rd grade reading achievement ...which predicts 8th grade math achievement ...which predicts high school graduation ...which predicts postsecondary attainment.

Now Is The Time To Act.
In Stark County, 40% of kids were NOT on track at the start of kindergarten for the 2017-18 school year.

1 Who is GSGF?

The Great Start for Great Futures (GSGF) Coalition is a group of Stark County early education providers, agencies, advocates, and community leaders collaborating to improve the outcomes of prenatal to kindergarten children. Please see the reverse of this flyer for a list of organizations committed to the GSGF initiatives.

2 The GSGF Goal

To ensure all children have access and opportunity to high-quality early education to ensure kindergarten readiness in all (early learning) educational domains.

3 Why Do We Do This?

If we close the achievement/opportunity gap in the areas of literacy, numeracy, and social-emotional development for children prenatal to three, then we will see kindergarten readiness and the establishment of a solid foundation for academic growth.

4 The FACES of GSGF Work

Family and Parent Empowerment: Engaging, educating and empowering families to become their child's first teachers

Agencies & Community: Strategically coordinating and leveraging collaborative partnerships

Children: Ensuring ALL children have access to high quality, whole child learning experiences.

Educators, Staff & ECE Programs: Ensuring all educators have data and training so they are equipped to provide high quality, whole child learning experiences

Systems: Developing aligned systems and clear metrics to equip decision makers; Integrating strategic partners to impact outcomes

5 GSGF Questions?

For more information, please contact
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6 Who are Partners in the GSGF Coalition?

- Alliance Early Learning School
- Alliance Family Health Center
- Artful Living and Learning
- Canton City Health Department
- Canton City School District
- Early Childhood Education Alliance
- Early Childhood Resource Center
- Fairless Local Schools
- Help Me Grow
- JRC Learning Center
- Lake Local Schools
- Massillon City Schools
- Osnaburg Local Schools
- PNC Financial Services Group
- Sisters of Charity of Canton
- Stark County Community Action Agency – Head Start
- Stark County District Library
- Stark Education Partnership
- Stark County Educational Service Center
- Stark County Fatherhood Coalition
- Stark County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery
- State Support Team Region 9
- Summit Education Initiative
- United Way of Greater Stark County
- University of Mount Union
- YWCA

PLUS other community leaders & early education advocates

