Boston Children Thrive
Parent Leadership Pathway

**PARENT LED PROJECT**

Ten-week advocacy and organizing course for parents; culminates in parents identifying and implementing projects in the community that engage more parents at all levels.

**PARENT AMBASSADORS**

Stipended peer-to-peer parent outreach.

**PARENTS ON SCHOOL READINESS ROUNDTABLE**

Parents who help plan, implement, and evaluate neighborhood activities side-by-side with community organization partners.

**BOSTON CHILDREN THRIVE PARENTS**

Parents participating in BCT activities and events.
School Readiness Pipeline
Work Flow Process

Health & Early Education and Care Providers (700-775 Children)

Parent Screeners (300-375 Children)

Learning Check-Ups: ASQ/ASQ-SE Screenings for Children at Ages 2 & 4

Individual Learning Check-Ins: Bridge to Referral Resources

Thrive in 5’s School Readiness Pipeline Database

Aggregate Report to Policymakers & Stakeholders

Scoring to be done by Brookes Publishing
Ready Educators Strategies
Ready Educators Agreement

Thrive in 5 will move Early Care and Education programs to the highest quality, as demonstrated by a common child outcome measure, using the following strategies:

- QRIS/Accreditation
- Professional Development – instructional supports; health and safety; literacy and curriculum; and screening and assessment
- Coaching/Mentoring (translate into practice)
- Educational Attainment (individual career counseling/ coaching)
Ready Educators Strategies

1. QRIS Pipeline
2. Demonstrate Enhanced Professional Development Model
3. Expand Community-Based K1 Model

1. Use Child Outcome Data to Drive Program Improvement
2. Demonstrate Community-Based K1 Proof of Concept
Strategy #1: Child Outcomes Drive Program Improvement

Programs review child outcome assessment data, then other data on indicators of quality.

With an intermediary, build a program improvement plan based on child-level data, and QRIS.

Engage with vendors, trainings, grants, etc. that are named in plan.

Make quality improvements.
Strategy #2: CBO K1 Proof of Concept

- Partnership established between BPS, Thrive in 5, EEC, United Way and Barr
- 9 CBO K1 classrooms launched this month
- Two EEC grants for CBO K1 model:
  - BPS – supports a coach for CBO K1s
  - Thrive in 5 – creates a pipeline for programs to become CBO K1s
- Thrive in 5 invited to submit a proposal to Cox Trust

CBO K1s include:
- High quality program
- Alignment between CBO Preschool and BPS K1/K2
- Shared professional development
- Integrated curriculum and assessment
- Salary enhancement
- Access to coaching
## Thrive in 5 Logic Model: Years 2-5

Mission: By age 5, every child in Boston will be ready to succeed in school and in life. The readiness gap currently evident at school entry will be prevented.

### Inputs

- **Sponsors**, including United Way and City of Boston as lead sponsors
- **Thrive in 5 Team**, including expertise in relationship development, project management, component content areas
- Public and private **service providers**, including existing relationships, coalitions, and systems
- **Young Children and their Families**
- **Local leaders, businesses and employers**
- **Funders**, including Federal, State, Local, corporate, foundation and individual

### Activities

- Provides **shared, city-wide vision**, mission, principles & values, and goals
- **Mobilizes stakeholders**, including parents
- Provides **infrastructure and builds the capacity** for parent involvement, continuous quality improvement, and evaluation
- Collaborates to develop and leverage **resources for early childhood system** (financial & human resources, information & technical assistance)
- Develops and implements strategies to address **shared priorities**
  - Current Priority Strategies: *Ready Families: Boston Children Thrive*
  - *Ready Educators: Early Educator*
  - Professional Development/Compensation: BPS CBO K1; Early Care and Education Program Quality Improvement

### Outputs

- **Collaborative groups are working on behalf of children and their families** (ex. Leadership Council, School Readiness Roundtables, strategy working groups)
- **Parents are engaged** in planning and implementation
- Provides **infrastructure and builds the capacity** for parent involvement, continuous quality improvement, and evaluation
- **Resources are available to support implementation**
- Implementation Outputs
  - **Ready Families**: BCT Parents Advisory Group; Hub leader working group; School readiness roundtables; family engagement integration working group; strategic planning advisory group
  - **Ready Educators**: BPS CBO K1 Director advisory group; Thrive in 5 Ready Educator ad hoc working group
  - **Ready Systems**: BPHC Local Wellness Council; Pediatric medical homes; Early childhood mental health system of care; Early intervention integration;

### Outcomes

- **Goals**
  - **Year 2-5**: Boston has created citywide, sustainable movement in support of young children’s healthy development and readiness for school
  - **Year 10**: All Boston children are ready for school at school entry and exhibit sustained school success

### Implementation Outcomes

- Across all strategies/components:
  - Increased parent/family knowledge of and access to early childhood information and resources
  - Increased capacity/capability within early childhood services and systems
  - Increased quality in early childhood services and systems

- **New priority strategies are identified**, particularly on structural barriers and gaps

- **Measures**:
  - Kindergarten assessment data
  - 3rd grade MCAS scores
  - Other measures of healthy child development
Thrive in 5: Activities

1. Provides a shared, city-wide vision, mission, principles, values, and goals as a framework for creating a movement in support of young children and their families.

2. Mobilizes stakeholders, including parents, to increase collaboration and coordination among early childhood service providers and systems to improve effectiveness and efficiency of services for young children and families.

3. Provides infrastructure and builds capacity for parent involvement, continuous quality improvement, and evaluation to enhance early childhood service quality and capture city-wide progress on child, family, and community outcomes.

4. Provides/marshals/leverages resources, including financial resources as well as information and technical assistance, to enhance the comprehensiveness, coordination and quality of Boston’s early childhood systems.

5. Develops and implements strategies to address shared priorities. Current priority strategies include:
   - Thrive in 5 - Boston Children Thrive (BCT): Family engagement
   - BPS CBO K1 Project with Thrive in 5 – Ready Educators: Early Educator Professional Development/Compensation
   - Thrive in 5 – Ready Educators - Early Care and Education Program Quality Improvement Project
   - BPHC Local Wellness Council: Pediatric medical homes (Project Launch), Early Childhood Mental Health (My Child)
   - Thrive in 5 - School Readiness Pipeline: Universal child development screening

   Long-term outcomes/goals:
   • Increased collaboration & coordination of early childhood services across providers and systems
   • Increased quality of early childhood services
   • Enhanced parent/family knowledge of early childhood and healthy child development
   • Sustained, citywide leadership and vision with parents as equal partners
   • Increased resources and public will in support of early childhood education and healthy child development
   • Transformed/seamless/effective/efficient early childhood systems to form a comprehensive system of care
     – “Transformed” = end result vs. process
     – “Care” = central role of unpaid/informal providers/parents, focus on healthy child development (HCD)/nurturing/support
   • Partners/public understand their role in EC system/promoting HCD
   • Cultural environment of support for Early Childhood
   • Identifies opportunities/strategies for action, particularly work on structural gaps/barriers/attitudes
Engaging and Empowering to Inspire Lasting Change.....
What is Smart from the Start?

• Started in 2008 in partnership with Office of Boston Mayor Tom Menino
• Works exclusively with the lowest 10% income families in Boston
• Currently serves over 1000 children 0-5, in 16 neighborhood sites
• A holistic, strengths-based family empowerment model
Smart from the Start’s unique approach transforms children, families, and communities.

**OUTREACH**
- Door-knocking
- Community walks
- Connecting with service providers

**RELATIONSHIP BUILDING**
- Strength based approach
- Family empowerment
- 1 on 1 relationships with each family

**PROGRAMMING**
- Reflects diversity of communities served
- Customized to community needs
- Work with existing service providers and businesses

Supportive Community
Healthy & Thriving Family
School Readiness

Smart from the Start
Families & Communities Promoting School Readiness
Case Example: Ruthie & Isaiah

Ruthie Now
- Self-sufficient and sober
- Actively parenting and focused on son’s success

Isaiah Now
- Ready for Headstart
- Age appropriate language, cognitive, social, emotional, gross & fine motor skills