

Learning, Growing, Thriving

Supporting Kids and Families Through United Way's ParentChild+ Program

JULY 2019

Income, race and ZIP code—do they determine a child's chance at success in school? For too many local families, the answer is yes. At United Way of King County, we stand up to this inequity through our ParentChild+ program.

We do this for the parents who work multiple jobs to keep their families afloat but can't afford curriculum-based daycare or preschool. We do this for the families who flee war-torn countries and face a world of newness—including the education system their kids will join. We do this because children shouldn't face an endless cycle of poverty because of the neighborhood they grow up in.

Kids behind in school from day 1 often means kids struggling to keep up throughout their academic years, which doesn't bode well for their future. The ParentChild+ program zeroes in on the opportunity gap by supporting parents during the early, crucial years of children's development. The program works with low-income, isolated families in their homes when the kids are 2 and 3 years old—because this window of cognitive growth cannot be missed.

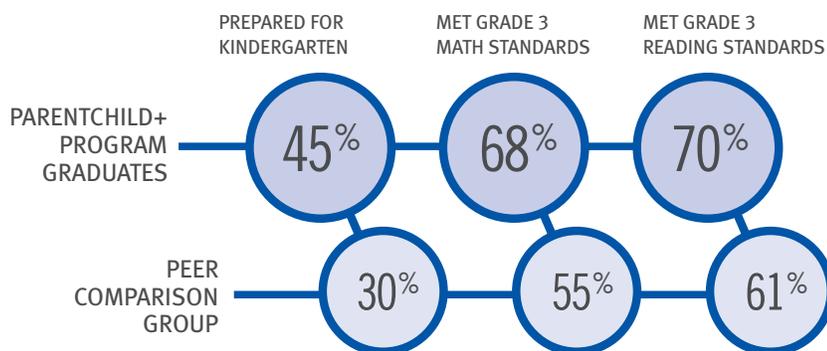
HOW IT WORKS

<p>Families are matched with trained coaches, known as home visitors, of the same language and cultural background.</p> 	<p>Home visitors meet with families in their homes two times a week.</p> 	<p>Home visitors bring a book or toy each week, model positive interaction, and teach parents how to work with and advocate for their children.</p> 	<p>Children leave the ParentChild+ program more prepared for kindergarten.</p> 
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ALL ABOUT THE PARTNERSHIPS

Business leaders passionate about early learning and closing the opportunity gap brought the national ParentChild+ program to King County in 2006. Together, we built a sustainable program locally. Research and data from kids who had graduated from the ParentChild+ program soon confirmed its success so unquestionably that the program earned wider confidence as well as the public/government funding that followed.

STATEWIDE: READY FOR KINDERGARTEN AND BEYOND



ParentChild+ program Washington Longitudinal Study Results, ORS Impact, February 2016

“The ParentChild+ program supports whole families, and by increasing family engagement in early childhood development and learning, is a powerful strategy for mitigating racial inequity in our education systems.”

Beth McCaw
president, Washington Women's Foundation,
and United Way Champions donor

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This program's long success was reinforced in 2016, when the Metropolitan King County Council included it as part of the funding plan for the voter-approved Best Starts For Kids Initiative. Not only does this show public confidence in early learning strategies like the ParentChild+ program, but it also earmarks financial investments from King County to merge with additional funds currently being raised by United Way. The combination of public and private funding allows us to grow the program to 1,300 families this year and expand the coordinated network of providers in the county.

**SUPPORTING KIDS
BY LEVERAGING
EVERY DOLLAR**

\$500K

Families and Education Levy—City of Seattle

\$500K

General Fund—City of Seattle

\$3 Million

Best Starts For Kids Initiative—King County

\$2 Million

Private funds needed to match city and county funds—You + United Way

\$6 Million

Total to continue closing the opportunity gap with the ParentChild+ program

OUR NETWORK OF PROGRAM PARTNERS

Atlantic Street Center
Children's Home Society of Washington
Chinese Information and Service Center
Congoese Integration Network
Denise Louie Education Center
El Centro de la Raza
Encompass
Horn of Africa Services
InterCultural Children and Families Services
Iraqi Community Center of WA
Kindering
Neighborhood House
Southeast Youth and Family Services
Southwest Youth and Family Services
Voices of Tomorrow
West African Community Council
YWCA

We recently broadened the network of partners from nine to 17. This expansion is focused primarily in South King County and South Seattle, with modest expansion in East and North King County. New programs will focus on communities currently underserved including Iraqi, Congoese and West African immigrants and refugees and African American and Native American families.



DANIEL: A Great Start for Lifelong Learning

Three years ago, when Daniel was a shy and frequently uncommunicative 2-year-old, Dora, a native Spanish speaker, enrolled him in United Way's Parent-Child Home Program. A home visitor who shared Spanish as her native language was the big win.

"I would practice singing the songs that Daniel and I learned in the books," says Dora. "Learning together was wonderful for our relationship."

Dora also credits the program with promoting her son's development, including increased listening, focusing on tasks and engagement with peers, skills he can take with him as he moves on to 1st grade and beyond.

"This is about giving all children in our community, particularly the most vulnerable, a chance to thrive, both today and tomorrow. We're proud to partner with United Way to leverage voter-approved funds from King County and add years to the ParentChild+ program."

Brooke and Josh Williams, United Way ParentChild+ program donors