# Ready Start Lincoln Parish Early Childhood Network Blueprint

*It's easier and less expensive to provide access to quality early care and education right from the start. Doing so ensures that our youngest learners have brain building experiences that prepare them for school and lifelong success.* -Amy Clancy, Director of Early Childhood Children's Coalition for Northeast Louisiana
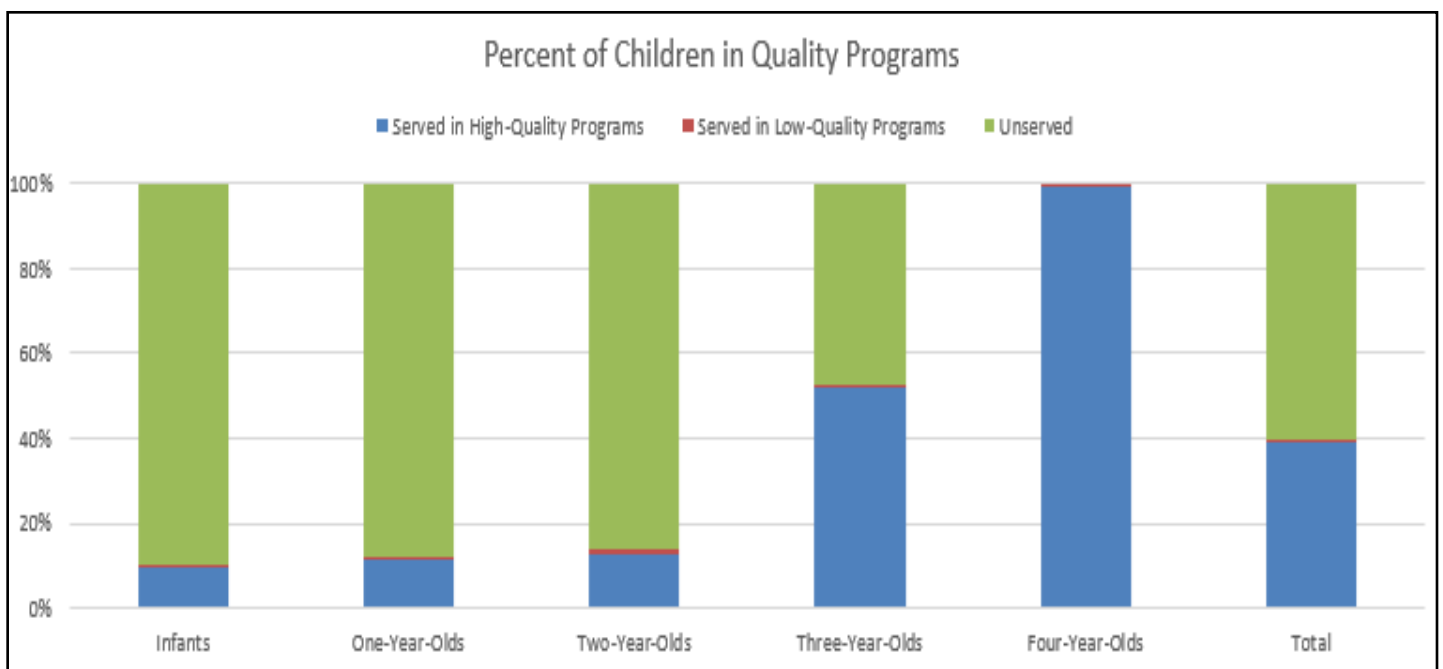
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# Introduction

Ready Start Lincoln Parish Early Childhood Network is a partnership unifying childcare programs under the leadership of the Children's Coalition for North Louisiana. As the Lead Agency, it oversees CLASS observations as well as supporting partners with tier 1 curriculum and professional development. The partnership consists of six school based prekindergarten sites, two Head Start sites, ten Type III childcare centers, and five Family Child Care Centers with Academic Approval from the Louisiana Department of Education.

Ready Start Lincoln Parish Early Childhood Network serves nearly all economically disadvantaged four-year olds (95%-100%). Lincoln Parish Early Childhood sites are not offering the same level or scale of affordable childhood education and care for families of young children, infant to three-year-olds. The network is serving approximately 5%-35% economically disadvantaged infants to three-year-olds. Current infant to 3-year-olds seats is limited within Lincoln Parish due to the need for additional physical space at centers. To address the deficit for Birth to 3-year-olds, Lincoln Parish was awarded 36 B-3 seats, but it is not enough.

The percent of Lincoln Parish students demonstrating readiness for kindergarten is well below the state in all observed domains with the greatest disparity in Approach to Learning (-11.6%), Language and Literacy Development (-16.8%), and Physical Development (-14.5%). The lower scores are being addressed with the use of Tier 1 curriculums for birth to four-year olds. The most important factors in delivering quality early care and education are the credentials and skills of classroom teachers. Therefore, professional learning for the teachers and leaders of the birth -four-year old students will continue to be a priority.

## Access to Quality Early Childhood Lincoln Parish by Age Group 2021-2022

# Guiding Statement

All Lincoln Parish children will have their basic needs met and have equitable access to quality early childhood care and education opportunities, so they are prepared to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

# Strategic Plan

**Goal 1: By the end of the 2023-2024 school year, 75% of Early Childhood sites will receive Proficient or higher in Instructional Support and/or Engaged Support for Learning domain(s).**

Strategies:

- Provide ongoing training/professional development and technical assistance to educators, directors, administrators, and coaches that focus on Instructional Support and Engage Support for Learning Domain.
- Provide leaders with professional development on walkthrough observations, feedback, and coaching.
- Provide feedback and resources to teachers on observations to help improve teacher and child interactions.

Resources:

Existing

- Ongoing training/professional development (Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers, and Pre-K; Frog Street Press

Needed

- Funds to add additional curriculum and continue professional learning through Teaching Strategies/Frog Street Press
- Funds for digital curriculum in Pre-K

Performance Metrics: Performance Profile will show an increase in these Domains.

**Goal 2: Increase community awareness about the importance of high-quality early childhood care and education by the end of the 2023-2024 academic year.**

Strategies:

- Use intentional digital marketing strategies (social media and Lincoln Parish Early Childhood Website). Ensure website is update and frequently place Early Childhood

information on social media

- Develop and disseminate resources, data, relevant and specific early childhood information to local business, churches, social services agencies, hospitals, banks, doctor offices, etc.
- Early Identification and Accurate Intervention Support Initiative with community outreach partners (pediatricians, dentists, leaders of faith)

Resources:

Existing

- Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) English and Spanish version
- Coordinated Enrollment Event
- Support from RSN members
- Early Childhood website
- Social Media outlets

Needed

- Use the early childhood network website as a location for developing and implementing marketing and parental guides for child development.
- Social Media will be maintained as mediums for maintaining the public image of early childcare and development.

Performance Metrics: Website and social media traffic increase 85% or more respondents understand the importance of high-quality early childhood care and education based on annual survey results.

**Goal 3: Increase the number of children, age birth to three in quality centers to ensure families have easy access to affordable, high-quality childcare and education**

Strategies:

- Seek funding for additional seats at the Type Ill childcare centers in the parish.
- Obtain data from childcare sites to begin communicating the possibilities of the capacity to serve more children age birth to three.
- Develop an effective partnership with all program partners
- Use data from needs assessment to make informed decisions

Resources:

Existing

- Data provided by the Early Childhood LDOE team
- Collaborate with Early Childhood LDOE team
- Partnership agreements with three Type Ill centers who receive B-3 seats funding.

Needed

- Additional seats are needed at the Type Ill centers to assist in filling to capacity and increasing the number of birth to three-year-old seats.
- Funds for curriculum, materials, and professional development to support Creative Curriculum and/or Frog Street Curriculum for additional birth to three-year-old classrooms
- Additional publicly funded seats allotted to the Ready Start Network

Performance Metrics: Increased Birth to 3-year-old child count enrollment, Coordinated Funding requests for additional seats at the Type Ill centers. Track center enrollment to see if there is an increase in birth to three-year-old attendance at the Type Ill centers.