



## What is Early Learning (EL) at WBF?

advancing early learning  
through

meaningful grantee partnerships • evidence based and evidence informed initiatives • best practices and emerging best practices • policy, systems, and environment approaches • cross-sector collaborative approaches • learning and data-driven practices • Nonprofit Excellence support

## Why?

The early years of a child's life, especially the first 5, are critical for building the foundational skills essential for success in education, health, career, and life. Investing in early care and education is one of the most effective ways to promote economic, workforce, and community development. The earlier a community invests in children's learning, the greater the potential return on investment like decreased educational costs, reduced juvenile delinquency, crime, and poor health.

## HIGH LEVEL OUTCOMES

More children arrive at kindergarten ready to learn.

More 3rd graders will meet or exceed grade level benchmarks for school success.

## OUR CURRENT EL STRATEGIES WITH EXAMPLES

### FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

*Helping families understand the importance of early learning and equipping them with best practice parenting tools.*

- Parent and caregiver education of the importance of early childhood development
- Parent and caregiver parenting skill building
- Parent and caregiver implementation of best practice parenting skills

### AFFORDABLE HIGH-QUALITY ENROLLMENT

*Supporting multi-sector efforts to make high quality learning environments more accessible to families.*

- On My Way Pre-K scholarship support (Cross-sector partnership)
- Affordable availability of high-quality childcare and education
- High-quality childcare and education opportunities for children at risk of not meeting developmental and educational milestones

### PROVIDER EFFECTIVENESS

*Equipping early learning providers with the tools to create high quality learning settings.*

- Teachers and educators equipped with best practices in effective instruction
- Best practice classroom environments
- Teachers and educators practicing effective child interactions, parent, and caregiver engagement

### ACADEMIC SUPPORTS

*Funding programs by community partners focused on narrowing the learning gap among elementary school students.*

- High-quality, best practice tutoring and other academic support opportunities outside of school settings
- Academic support initiatives having coordination with public and private school systems
- Academic support opportunities for K-3 students at risk for not meeting academic milestones

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White Paper on  
Early Learning



Indiana Early Learning  
Advisory Committee (ELAC)

