

PASSPORT TO KINDERGARTEN



GOAL

Improve the oral language skills of low-income preschoolers in the Dayton Region so they are ready to learn by the start of kindergarten

PROGRAM MODEL: This program model supports the Region's School Readiness Formula (Ready families + Ready Communities + Ready Schools = Ready Children)



- **Ready Families component**—Books to the children to read with their parents, community events for families and “AWE” reading training to families
- **Ready Community component**— Partner participation to provide AWEsome moments, Volunteers’ involvement in the project also strengthens community engagement
- **Ready Schools Component**— Dialogic reading training to teachers and in-class intervention with the students utilizing small group readings 3 times/week

Passport to Kindergarten is a locally developed PNC sponsored school readiness program focused at helping preschoolers get school ready by improving their oral language skills.

The program is led by Learn to Earn Dayton, and is a unique community partnership with community agencies.

TARGET AUDIENCE: Approximately 400 preschool children from low-income neighborhoods served either through a public school district, Head Start center or a not-for-profit child school/care program

INTERVENTION: All partners use the same research proven method of reading and talking with children called **Dialogic Reading**. The program utilizes the acronym AWE (Ask, Wait, and Expand) to teach the dialogic reading methodology. Families, teachers and community organizations are encouraged to create AWEsome Moments (rich experiences that help develop children’s language skills) by:

- **Asking** questions to encourage your child to talk with you
- **Waiting** at least five seconds since children need more time than adults to think about their response, and
- **Expanding** the child’s response by repeating what he or she said and saying a bit more

METHOD OF DELIVERY:

- 1) Preschool teachers with PreK students from the low-income areas are invited to apply to be a part of the program.
- 2) Teachers participate in ongoing professional development to implement Dialogic Reading with fidelity.
- 3) Students in each participating classroom receive books for their home libraries.
- 4) Partner organizations provide community events where parents have opportunities to share AWEsome moments with their children.

BENEFITS TO PARTNER CLASSROOMS:

- Ongoing professional development for the teacher
- Intensive, research-based intervention for the preschool students to help them become kindergarten ready
- Recognition as a Passport Program sponsored by PNC
- Additional relationship development opportunities with the preschool children’s families
- Free books to each classroom and each preschool student participating in the program
- Special invitation to the community partner events for the students participating in the program

For more information or to apply to be a Passport to Kindergarten classroom visit learntoearn Dayton.org/Passport-to-Kindergarten