

A bright start makes all the difference

Research shows that children who enter kindergarten with the foundation for academic success are more likely to stay on track, read proficiently by third grade, graduate and build a better life for their own children.

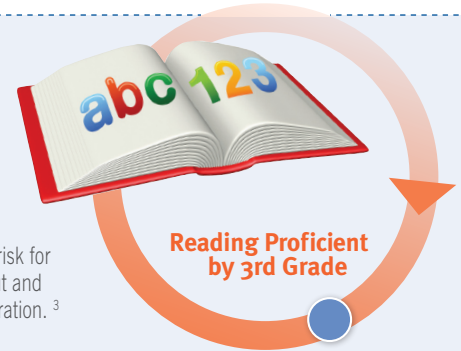
That's why healthy childhood development that promotes early literacy is the first step in United Way's innovative approach to creating a brighter future for everyone in our region.

Today's statistics, tomorrow's opportunity

57% of third graders in low-income families are reading below grade level in Massachusetts.¹

74% of children whose reading skills are less than sufficient by third grade have a drastically reduced likelihood of graduating from high school.²

1 in 5 children are living in poverty and at risk for falling behind in school, dropping out and repeating the cycle for another generation.³



Annual progress report: Children under age five



Children in quality programs

GOAL: 21,800

ACHIEVED:

21,804

Staff trained to recognize developmental delays

GOAL: 2,160

ACHIEVED:

2,847

Children at risk for expulsion from community childhood programs who were retained through consultation.

GOAL: 972

ACHIEVED:

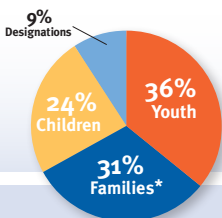
1,290

Programs that effectively connect families and provide family support

GOAL: 78

ACHIEVED:

77



A once-in-a-lifetime investment that yields big returns:

Every dollar spent on quality early childhood interventions returns \$14-\$17 in long-term savings

Reaching 1 in 4 children in the communities that need help most.

Throughout Massachusetts, United Way is making investing in healthy childhood development a community priority by:

- Bringing the public and private sector together to form breakthrough partnerships like Thrive in Five
- Increasing the knowledge of early childhood educators
- Providing critical funding to 50 early childhood agencies in the communities that need it most
- Ensuring that children with developmental delays get help early, when it can make the most difference

¹ Strategies for Children, "Turning the Page: Refocusing Massachusetts for Reading Success," June 10, 2010

² Fletcher, J.M. & Lyon, G.R. (1998). Reading: A research-based approach. In W.M. Evers (Ed.), What's gone wrong in America's classrooms (49-90). Stanford, CA: Hoover Institution Press.)

³ Anne E. Casey Foundation, 2010 Kids Count Data Book

