

United Way Success By 6™

United Way provides leadership, resources and focus to change lives in our community by creating sustainable improvements in education, income and health. United Way of Northeast Florida is a leader in ensuring:

- *Children enter kindergarten ready to succeed and students stay in school through graduation*
- *Individuals and families have the opportunity to achieve financial stability*
- *People have the opportunity to lead healthy and engaged lives*

In addition, United Way ensures that families in need have accurate, helpful information about social services through United Way 2-1-1.

WHAT: Success By 6™, a partnership between United Way and The Early Learning Coalition of Duval and the Early Learning Coalition of Clay, Nassau, Baker and Bradford, provides two-year scholarships to working families with three year old children. The children are placed in high-quality early education centers and receive two years of full-day education and care.

WHY: Results of the Florida School Readiness Screening indicate that Northeast Florida kindergarteners are not ready to learn language and literacy skills when they enter kindergarten. Between 18 and 35 percent of Jacksonville children are behind their fellow students before they even start school.

Quality early-learning develops the building blocks for success in elementary school. The Success By 6™ early-learning initiative relies on expert providers and a research-based curriculum that stresses critical skills for preschoolers, especially language acquisition, social maturation and knowledge development.

RESULTS: Since Success By 6™ began in 2007, more than 476 preschoolers have received grants to attend two years of high-quality early learning. Because Success By 6™ funding supports the high quality education programming at the centers, more than 1,900 preschoolers benefit. The Florida Institute of Education (FIE) at UNF evaluates Success By 6™ results with two standardized tests: the Expressive Vocabulary Test that evaluates vocabulary skills, and the Bracken Basic Concept Scale that measures school readiness. The results are:

After two years of high quality early learning:

- **42%** improvement in preschoolers who are very delayed in their expressive vocabulary
- **19%** improvement in preschoolers who are ready for school

Success By 6 funding sustains the high-quality education programming at qualifying centers benefitting more than **1,946** children.

SUCCESS STORY: When 3-year-old Diana started in Success By 6™, she had trouble completing puzzles, counting, and repeating letter sounds. The one-on-one attention Diana receives at her new, high-quality early learning center has helped. Diana is now eager to learn, more creative at play, and excited to try new activities and games. "In the short period of time she has been enrolled in Success By 6™, she has blossomed into an extroverted and very alert little girl," says her mom L'ubica. "Her vocabulary has grown and she is so talkative now."