



ReadyKids!

Prepared for Day One of Kindergarten and Beyond

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Tammy Greer, Executive Director
Escambia Children's Trust
1100 College Blvd.
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Pensacola, FL 32504

April 10, 2023

Dear Ms. Greer,

Last summer, our team at ReadyKids! designed and implemented our brand-new Summer Bridge Program, *Kindergarten, Here We Come*, which was made possible by Escambia Children's Trust funding. It is with great gratitude that we submit a sponsorship request for your consideration to implement that program again this summer. Planning is underway for three family workshops to be hosted at Global Learning Academy on June 10, 13, and 14. The workshops will be open to all families who have rising kindergarteners with a deliberate call for those families who have not participated in a formal education program and/or who are underprepared. One workshop will be offered fully in Spanish. Additional details are included in accompaniment to this letter.

Since 2007, our mission has been to maximize children's potential through increased school readiness. Our vision is that every student in our community starts kindergarten ready to learn. Our staff, Board of Directors, and dedicated volunteers are all intimately familiar with the importance of school readiness and the ongoing negative outcomes students experience when they come to school not ready to learn. This is why our programming is laser-focused on serving families with pre-kindergarten aged children.

We are grateful for the Escambia Children's Trust's recognition of this critical issue facing our community and appreciate the opportunity to submit this request. If different or additional information would be helpful, I am more than happy to oblige.

Thank you for your consideration and for the vital role you play in improving outcomes for children in our community.

With sincere gratitude,

Ruthie Noel
Executive Director, ReadyKids!
director@readykidsFL.org

Sponsorship Request Summary:

As data has consistently shown, more than half of the children entering kindergarten in Escambia County are “not ready” to learn by state standards. The low participation rate of families in Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK), long waitlists for Head Start and private daycare classrooms, and the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have culminated in a community-wide crisis that requires immediate attention and action. In 2022, ReadyKids! responded with the implementation of a kindergarten transition program designed to improve readiness outcomes for children and families, *Kindergarten, Here We Come*. The goal of the program is two-fold: To introduce parents/caregivers to the concept of school readiness and equip them to best prepare their student at home *and* to introduce children to a formal early education setting to help prepare them for their first day of kindergarten. In total, we served 26 parents/caregivers and 17 incoming kindergartners across three workshops held at The Fricker Center, Montclair Elementary, and O.J. Semmes Elementary. Of the students we served, 48% did not attend pre-k or have experience in a formalized education setting. Of the 26 parents/caregivers who completed our evaluation survey, 100% reported “I now have a better understanding of what it means for my student/child to be ‘ready’ for school.” and “I now have a better understanding of how I can help my students/child practice readiness at home.”

This year, the program will again be delivered in a workshop format through collaborative efforts with Escambia County Public Schools. We will host the workshops



on three separate dates in June 2023 at Global Learning Academy with one workshop offered fully in Spanish. The school district has agreed to assist with the promotion of the workshops through all of their various communication channels which we believe will encourage significantly higher attendance than 2022. Another new component this year will be onsite kindergarten registration assistance for the families who attend.

Program Design:

ReadyKids! and the Escambia County Public Schools will offer workshops for Escambia County families with children who will be entering kindergarten for the first time in August of 2023 and who are unprepared/underprepared for kindergarten and/or have not previously attended an early learning program or VPK. Families will be served food, transportation and childcare for siblings will be provided, each family will receive a gas or grocery gift card for attending, and they will be further incentivized to attend by the chance to win a “big ticket” door prize (e.g., tablet or laptop).

Number of children to be served: Minimum 60; Maximum 150

Location: Global Learning Academy

Dates: Saturday June 10 (Breakfast timeframe); Tuesday June 13 (Dinner timeframe); Wednesday June 14 (Lunch timeframe)

Program Hours: Two-hour workshop offered three times (6 hours total)

Program Components:

Ready for Kindergarten! Parents/caregivers workshop

- Explore what it means to be “ready” for school
- Plan for family routines that support strong health and habits
- Discover the building blocks of “readiness” and what children in kindergarten learn at the start of the year, middle of the year, and by the end of the year
- Learn to play powerful learning games and activities that build the skills needed to be ready for kindergarten
- “Know-Before-You-Go” overview of day 1 of Kindergarten in ECPS and opportunity to register onsite
- **Outcomes:**
 - Families feel empowered and prepared for the first day of school by understanding what skills are most important for their student to know on day one
 - Families familiarize themselves with the kindergarten registration process, supplies and materials list, school day schedule including bus route and/or drop off information
 - Families understand what resources are available in the community to launch and support their child’s educational journey (e.g., where to acquire school supplies, specialist services, dental and medical screenings, etc.)

- Evaluation:
 - Post workshop surveys to measure individual learning gains
 - Increase in kindergarten registration numbers

Kindergarten Kick Off: Student workshop

- Rising kindergarten students gain exposure to and practice classroom skills under the supervision and direction of certified kindergarten teachers.
 - Executive Function skills: Practice listening to directions, lining up, sitting patiently, raising hands, activity transitions, independent self-care (restroom, handwashing)
 - Social-Emotional skills: Practice sharing, taking turns, getting along with others and treating others kindly
 - Academic Foundation skills: Practice recognizing and pronouncing letters, numbers, colors
- Outcome: 60 – 150 Students understand and practice basic classroom behavior expectations
- Evaluation: Sticker chart: Students receive a sticker for every skill they practice on their skills list
- Student workshops will be limited to 10 children per certified teacher

Personnel Capacity

- Childcare: Head Start teachers contracted through Community Action Program Committee (CAPC)
- Workshop Planning and Facilitation: ReadyKids! Staff and Certified teachers

- Transportation: Rideshare scheduled as-needed
- Administration: ReadyKids! Staff

Demonstrated Experience and Qualifications

The staff who will implement the proposed project are early education experts in their respective areas:

- The workshop content for parents and caregivers is an evidence-based family engagement resource provided with the Teaching Strategies Gold software, ReadyRosie.
 - ReadyRosie is an early education tool that helps families, schools, and communities across the nation deepen and scale their family engagement efforts. These tools leverage the power of video modeling, family workshops, and mobile technology to build powerful partnerships between families and educators.
 - The content advisors and developers of this family curriculum are experts in family education, family engagement, education, early childhood, literacy, math, science, social emotional learning, dual language learners, media, and parenting.
 - The ReadyRosie subscription is purchased and provided to Escambia County families by ReadyKids! in collaboration with the Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County
- The workshop content for rising kindergarten students was developed by certified teachers here in Escambia County Public Schools.

- Workshop facilitation: The parent/caregiver workshops and the student workshops will be facilitated by certified teachers.
- The administration of the program will be coordinated by the ReadyKids! staff:
 - Family Engagement Coordinator Mindi Crain holds a master's degree in Social Work and has helped prepare pre-k students for school as a ReadyKids! team member since 2017.
 - Program Director Kristy Craig is an expert in the early literacy ReadingPals program including program and staff management, site coordination, volunteer recruiting, training, and retention, and event planning and execution. Kristy has also been part of the ReadyKids! mission of preparing pre-k students for school since 2017.
 - Executive Director Ruthie Noel holds a master's degree in Industrial-Organizational Psychology and has over 15 years of professional childcare and early education experience including Montessori classroom instruction, DCF training, and trauma intervention and emotional first aid.
 - All ReadyKids! staff members passed a Level II background check through the Escambia County Public Schools and have completed the Know Child Abuse training.

Cost Effectiveness:

The budget provided is estimated based on hosting three (3) workshops and serving 150 families/children (maximum).

Kindergarten, Here We Come 2023

Line Item	Budget
Food & Bev	\$2,000
Program Supplies	\$1,200.00
Printing	\$200.00
Resource bags	\$300.00
Children's take-home books	\$700.00
Personnel	\$7,000.00
Childcare for siblings	\$700.00
Certified Teachers	\$1,000.00
Transportation (Bus drivers or Lyft/Uber/taxi)	\$300.00
Administration	\$5,000.00
Incentives	\$2,000.00
Gift cards	\$1,500.00
"Big ticket" door prize (e.g., tablet or laptop)	\$500.00
Marketing	\$2,100.00
Print advertising	\$1,300.00
Social media advertising	\$300.00
TV/Radio advertising	\$300.00
Printing/copying/mailing	\$200.00
Total estimated cost:	\$14,300.00