



## PREPARED FOR KINDERGARTEN

In order to be kindergarten-ready, young children need quality early education, strong relationships with families, a safe and secure home environment and regular health and developmental screenings and support.

Today, we know without a doubt that quality early childhood education leads to more success in kindergarten and throughout life. For low-income children, early childhood education is one of the keys to upward mobility. It also leads to a stronger economy for all of us.

This work does not just involve preschools – success requires strong families, safe homes and timely screenings to ensure kids are meeting their developmental milestones.

## BY THE NUMBERS

### KEY INDICATOR

#### PALS-K BENCHMARKS



# 85.0%

KINDERGARTENERS MEETING FALL PALS-K BENCHMARKS (FALL 2015)

1 IN 7 YOUNG CHILDREN IN OUR REGION START SCHOOL WITHOUT THE LITERACY SKILLS NEEDED FOR KINDERGARTEN. THAT'S 1,864 CHILDREN.

Source: Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS) Office, The University of Virginia

### RELATED INDICATOR

#### HEALTH INSURANCE (CHILDREN AGES 0-6)



**95.8%**  
(77,327 CHILDREN)  
INSURED



**4.2%**  
(3,430 CHILDREN)  
UNINSURED

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

### RELATED INDICATOR

#### EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (AGES 3-4)



**47.2%**  
(13,504 CHILDREN)  
ENROLLED



**52.8%**  
(15,136 CHILDREN)  
NOT ENROLLED

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

### RELATED INDICATOR

#### EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMS

# 1,154

CHILDREN SERVED BY EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMS

Includes United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg service area as well as the counties of Emporia, Greenville, Hopewell, Prince George, Surry and Sussex.

Source: Infant & Toddler Connection ([www.infantva.org](http://www.infantva.org))



## WHAT WE DO

United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg understands the importance of school readiness, as well as the holistic approach required to truly prepare our young children for kindergarten. That's why we invest in programs that focus on family stability, early literacy, and social and emotional development.

We are a founding partner with **Smart Beginnings Greater Richmond**, which coordinates organizations, businesses and citizens to ensure the region's children enter school healthy, well-cared for and ready to succeed in school and in life.

## SUPPORTED ORGANIZATIONS

United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg is proud to support the following organizations:

- Family Lifeline
- Friends Association for Children
- Greater Richmond ARC
- Greater Richmond SCAN
- Quin Rivers
- Sacred Heart Center
- Smart Beginnings Greater Richmond
- YWCA Sprout School
- Virginia Quality

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

**Donate.** Give to United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg. Let us know you want your gift to help prepare students for kindergarten.

**Connect.** Parents, pediatricians and childcare providers can call 2-1-1 for information about developmental screening and early intervention services in your area.

**Volunteer.** Want to lend your time to supporting these efforts? Email [volunteer@yourunitedway.org](mailto:volunteer@yourunitedway.org) and we will help match you with the right opportunity.

[yourunitedway.org](http://yourunitedway.org)



United Way of Greater  
Richmond & Petersburg