

PREPARING CHILDREN FOR KINDERGARTEN

Helping rising kindergarteners start school confident and ready to learn.

In our service area, 1 in 7 students start kindergarten without the skills necessary to learn and thrive in elementary school. These students begin their academic career behind their peers because they lack basic readiness skills.

Why is kindergarten readiness so important?

Students that begin kindergarten without necessary skills will struggle to read on grade level, be engaged through school and are less likely to graduate high school on-time. That's why it's critical that we make sure all students start kindergarten ready to learn and succeed.



What is Kindergarten Countdown Camp?

United Way's Kindergarten Countdown Camp is a free summer learning program for rising kindergarten students with limited to no preschool experience. The program focuses on basic kindergarten skills like recognizing shapes, letters, counting, writing their names, adjusting to the classroom setting and even riding the school bus. The camp also teaches children important social emotional skills such as following directions and routines, working with peers and expressing emotions. Each participant receives a new book each week and a backpack full of supplies at the conclusion of camp.

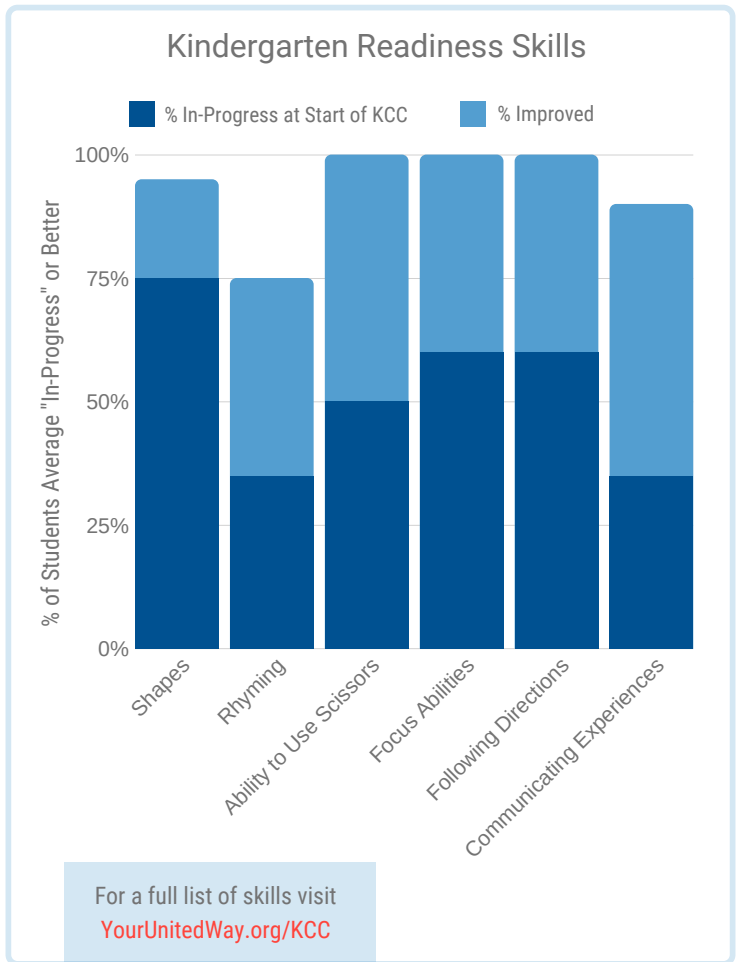
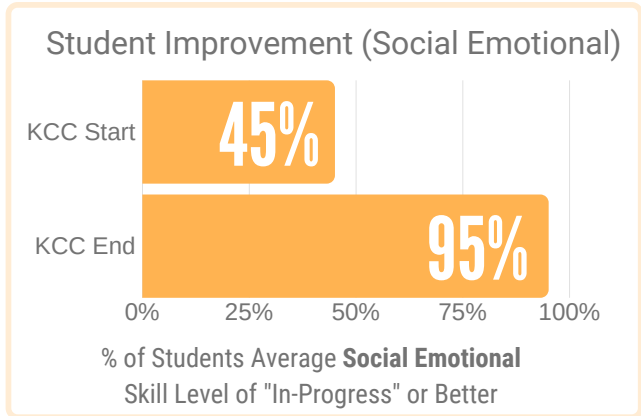
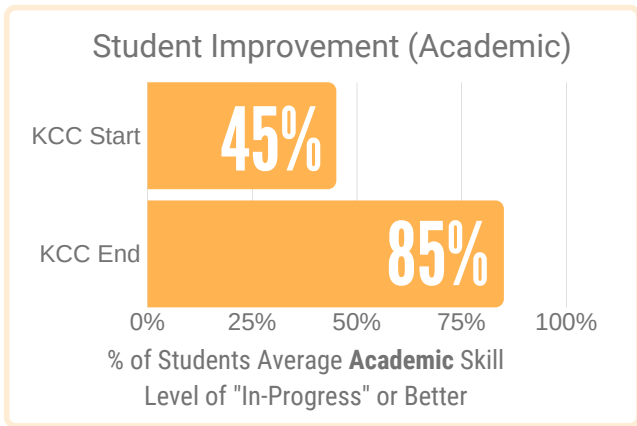
How are outcomes measured?

Each Kindergarten Countdown Camp participant is given two kindergarten readiness assessments: one at the beginning of camp and one at the end. The kindergarten readiness assessment examines academic and social emotional skills. Teachers suggest children should at least be "in progress" on these key skills when starting kindergarten.

"Kindergarten Countdown Camp was a great tool to prepare the kids and myself for the upcoming school year!"

- Kindergarten Countdown Camp Parent

WHAT ARE THE OUTCOMES?



Learn More

Kindergarten Countdown Camps support United Way's Prepared for Kindergarten Step, one of nine Steps to Success.

Learn more about the Prepared for Kindergarten Step and other programs supporting this Step by visiting YourUnitedWay.org/kindergarten.