

E **Early**
H **Childhood**
T **Alliance**

Whole Child, Whole Community

Niles Township ECA Service Area

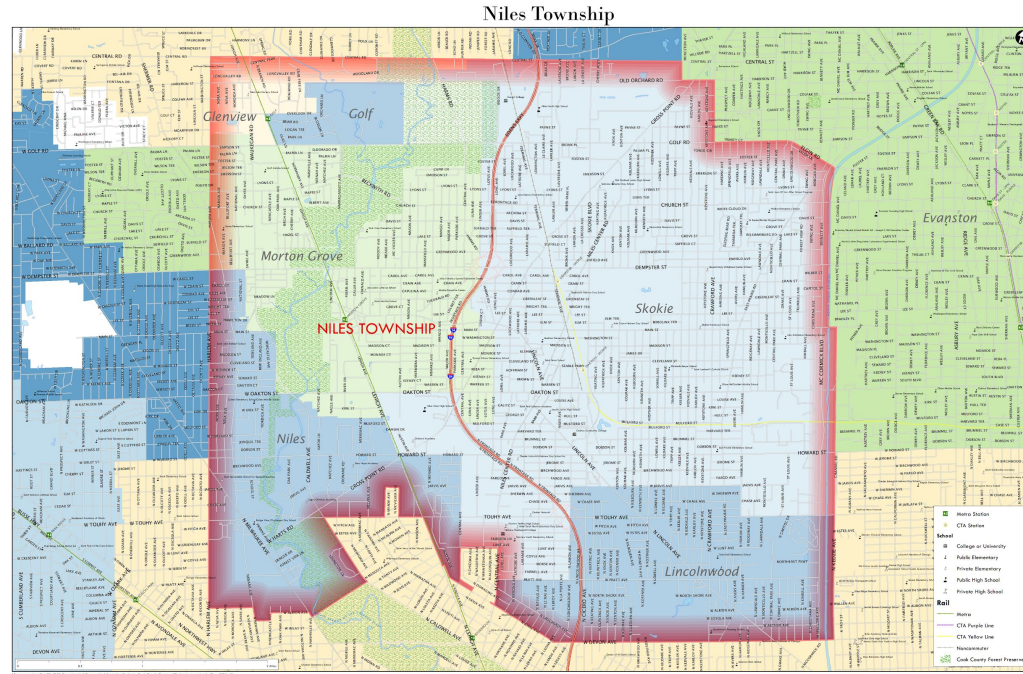
Skokie

Lincolnwood

Golf

Most of Morton
Grove

Part of Niles &
Glenview



ECA Overview



- The idea for the Early Childhood Alliance was loosely formed in 2018, when various providers (social service agencies, libraries, childcare programs, school districts) realized that many organizations were working with the same families but that everything was happening in silos.
- Why focus on early childhood? 90% of an individual's brain is developed before the age of 5. Research tells us that early preventive intervention is more efficient and produces more favorable outcomes than remediation later in life.
- Our mission is to advocate for and coordinate comprehensive community-based supports for young children and their caregivers that promote equity and honor strengths and diversity.

ECA Target Problem

In Niles Township, more than 64% of children who receive free and reduced lunch are NOT on track developmentally as they enter kindergarten based on the KIDS assessment.

The link between early childhood and school success:

- By school age, a child's brain development is built upon the now solid foundation created in the first 5 years. It is more difficult for children to take advantage of elementary school learning environments if they have not had optimal early learning experiences or a nurturing home environment.
- There is no possible way that K-12 schooling can eliminate the achievement gap that exists beginning in Kindergarten, it is imperative that we work to prevent the gap in the first place!
- Young children who participate in early childhood programming will be better prepared for Kindergarten - making the job of our public school systems easier and more impactful.

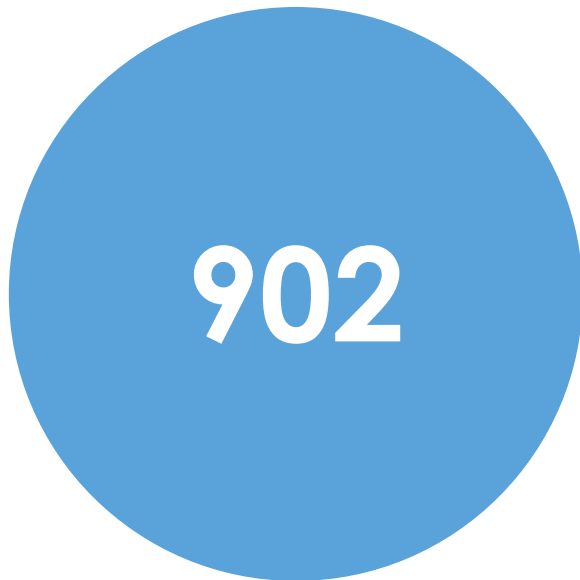
of Children \leq 5 years
in Niles Township
(2020 Census)



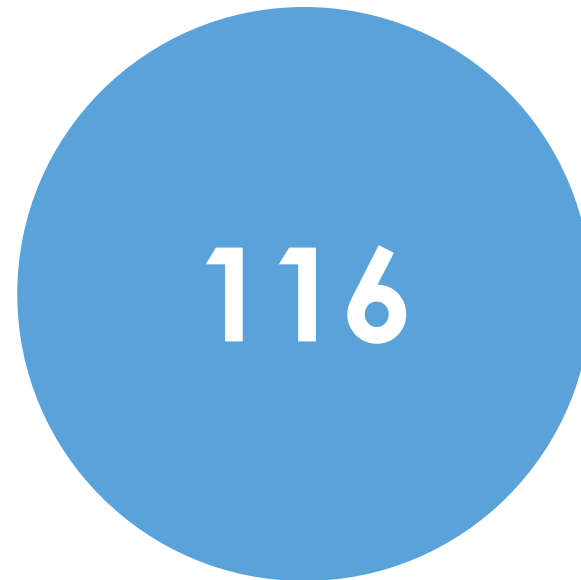
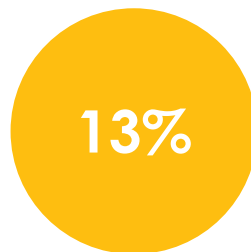
of Children \leq 5 years living
in homes at 0-185% FPL
in Niles Township
(2020 Estimates)



Lincolnwood Children ≤ 5
years
(2020 Census)



Lincolnwood Children ≤ 5 years living
in homes at 0-185% FPL
(2020 Estimates)



Early Childhood Alliance Members



AHS Family Health Centers

Glenview Public Library

Mosaic Early Childhood

Skokie Public Library

All Bright Therapies

Golf School District 67

Niles School District 71

Skokie School District 68

Child and Family Connection #6

Infant Welfare Society of Evanston

Niles Township District for Special Education

Skokie School District 73.5

Childcare Network of Evanston

Kids Academy

Niles Township Government

Skokie Sprouts

Children's Advocacy Center

Little Bird Child Care

Niles Township High Schools District 219

Skokie Chamber of Commerce

Cradles, Cribs, and Crayons

Little People's Montessori

Oakton Community College Department of Early Childhood Education

Skokie-Morton Grove School District 69

Devonshire Preschool

Maine-Niles Association for Special Recreation

Oakton Community College Early Childhood Center

The Goddard School of Skokie-Evanston-Wilmette

East Prairie School District 73

Metropolitan Family Services

Precious Child Early Learning Center at Jerusalem Lutheran School

Tot Learning Center

ELL Parent Center

Montessori Academy of Morton Grove

Turning Point

Erikson Institute

Morton Grove Public Library

Village of Morton Grove

Fairview School District 72

Morton Grove School District 70

Sara Worch

Village of Skokie

Family Focus Evanston

Covenant Nursery School

SCC Early Childhood Centers

Accomplishments to Date



Summer 2023

- With funds from the Birth to Five Illinois collaboration grant we have been able to:
 - Update the ECA website, social media, and marketing materials - still a work in progress!
 - Hire a Director of Collective Impact, Astrid Suarez, to coordinate community outreach, align systems and work toward a more equitable community
 - Hire 5 Family Liaisons who together speak Farsi, Dari, Urdu, Spanish, Assyrian and Arabic as a way to ensure that access to childcare resources and programming is not hindered by language
 - Meet families where they are - in parks, neighborhoods, store parking lots, and by direct outreach by family liaisons to ECA outreach events. We are seeking out the families not yet connected.
 - Start a bi-weekly parent support group with translation available to support families with various needs: childcare, mental health, child development, resources.

Accomplishments to date con't:

Summer 2023



- With the support of Family Liaisons' translation services and relationship building, we've helped over 20 families who are immigrants and refugees connect with necessary resources such as WIC, SNAP, library cards, and childcare services
- Host the 2nd annual ECA Fun Fair to gather families and provide resources, information about programs, and fun activities for children. 25 organizations were represented and over 400 people attended.
- Through a grant from the Skokie Community Foundation, we are providing mental health & behavioral support consultation to area early childhood programs to ensure children and families receive holistic support
- Coordinated childcare tours for area state legislators to illustrate the challenges and needs of families and programs and highlight gaps in services

Collective Impact Approach

- To advance our mission and vision, the ECA has adopted a collective impact approach based on recognizing our families’ “cultural wealth”
- This framework maps out the embedded assets and resources in communities of color

How can we collaborate?

- Join the ECA and attend our quarterly meetings
- Advocate to others about the resources of the ECA - outreach events, Family Liaison connections, referrals of families with young children who could use assistance
- Help acquire funding for the future - point out grant opportunities or help to make connections



Membership Commitment

_____ agrees that all young children and their
(name of organization)
caregivers deserve to have healthy relationships, safe environments, and high-quality learning experiences
in order to reach their full potential. To advance this vision, our organization will actively participate in the
Early Childhood Alliance (ECA).

As an ECA member, we commit to:

- read the quarterly newsletter to stay up to date with current happenings in the ECA
- promote events, initiatives and opportunities to the community
- attend full council quarterly meetings
- lend resources and expertise
- build awareness of the ECA

In addition, we may choose to:

- serve on subcommittees or task forces
- participate in ECA events, workshops and trainings
- contribute to data collection for community assessments
- contribute to the financial sustainability of the ECA (e.g., grant writing, in-kind donation, organizational resources, staff time, monetary contribution)

Signature

Date

Printed Name

Title

Thanks for your time - stay in touch!



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