

EDUCATIONAL FIRST STEPS

Impact Report

2019-2020 Fiscal Year



The mission of Educational First Steps is to create and support high-quality early learning environments that ignite the minds of children from birth to age five.

what we do



Educational First Steps transforms existing centers serving underprivileged children into nationally accredited preschools.

Through the Four Steps to Excellence, EFS provides the evidence-based training, mentoring, and comprehensive resource support, all at no cost to educators, families, and communities, needed to help childcare centers achieve national accreditation. In turn, childcare providers provide the high-quality, high-impact care required to create and support early learning environments that help all children experience an equal opportunity for success. By investing in early childhood education, EFS aims to combat both generational poverty and the social inequalities that disproportionately affect African American populations and other communities of color across North Texas.

who we serve



Educational First Steps presently serves:

8,270+ children
1,565+ teachers
150+ directors
530+ classrooms
24+ school districts
59 home based providers

EFS also provides professional development, onsite mentoring, and classroom instruction to teachers and early childcare center directors across 24 school districts in Dallas, Tarrant, Collin, Johnson, Denton and Grayson Counties.

what we provide



Educational First Steps uses a two-pronged approach that consists of education specialists helping teachers develop the skills they need, which include organization, planning, and most importantly, loving and nurturing interactions, while EFS' Marketing and Enrollment Services department strategically works to center directors' financial literacy and understanding of business best practices as well as the key marketing techniques that allow childcare centers to be economically successful. EFS is the organization that makes a permanent commitment to its partner centers, by first mentoring childcare providers along the rigorous path towards national accreditation and afterwards helping centers become fully enrolled and economically sustainable over time.

problems we address



Without access to high-quality early education, children can experience vocabulary deficits in which they recognize only **1/3 to 1/6** of the words necessary to succeed beginning with kindergarten.

Many children in North Texas do not have access to high-quality early learning experiences during the **first five years** of their lives, when the foundation for healthy cognitive thinking is built.

85% of children's brain development occurs in the **first 3 years** of life.

Low-quality early learning environments leave children with **underdeveloped social-emotional skills** that further inhibit their ability to be equal & full participants inside the classroom.

As early as **24 months**, many toddlers living in poverty show both behavioral and cognitive delays.

EDUCATIONAL FIRST STEPS • *Impact Report*

why support EFS



what we accomplish

Educational First Steps knows that change only comes if we as a society are outraged by human suffering even when it does not impact us personally. Through EFS' Four Steps to Excellence program, EFS offers the opportunity to support a child, invest in the local community, and help ultimately create a brighter and more socially, economically, and racially equitable tomorrow.

High-quality early childhood education is a key to:

Closing achievement gaps for early learners.

Breaking cycles of generational poverty for families.

Creating greater social equity in North Texas communities.

Educational First Steps believes that investing in high-quality early childhood education is fundamental to empowering communities of color, reversing cycles of generational poverty, and dismantling the vestiges and structures of systemic racism.

Children exposed to high-quality early learning programs are more likely to graduate high school on-time, attend and complete post-secondary education, be physically and emotionally healthy, and have a higher earning potential in future employment. The National Institute for Early Childhood

Education Research reported an investment in quality education during a child's first five years can have a lifetime of impact, yielding up to a \$17 return on every dollar spent through better education, economic, health, and social outcomes.

Growth of *Educational First Steps* • 1990-today



• 1990 •
EFS founded

• 2007 •

EFS partners with Brazelton's Touchpoints to teach childcare providers to be responsive to parents and understand child development

• 2008 •

1st EFS partner childcare center to receive National Accreditation

• 2010 •

EFS expands to Fort Worth & Tarrant County

• 2011 •

1st Annual Teacher Conference - 250 attendees

• 2013 •

Pre-Accredited Partner Services Program revamped to help childcare centers achieve National Accreditation in less time

• 2014 •

Opened new Dallas office and training facility

• 2015 •

Bridge Fund launched in partnership with Texas Women's Foundation to bridge the gap in funding for parents awaiting childcare assistance, to receive high-quality childcare

• 2017 •

With the support from the Rainwater Charitable Foundation, Accredited Partner Services was launched to help sustain high-quality childcare businesses after accreditation

• 2019 •

One-third of all EFS partner centers are located in Tarrant County

• 2020 •

9th Annual North Texas Teacher Conference - 700 attendees

COVID-19 Childcare Relief Fund launched to support EFS Partners through grants - \$237,000 raised in the first 2 months, helping 3,418 children



2019-2020 Fiscal Year *By the Numbers*

30
years

158
partners

531
classrooms

8,271
children
served

1,565
teachers
served

74
Centers in quality
23
Centers on the path
to quality
2
Centers in discovery

6,252
Birth to 5
2,019
Ages 6 to 12
55% African American
32% Latino
20% Caucasian
11% Asian

59
Home based
centers

397
In quality
126
On the path
to quality

26,605
Professional
development hours
12,136
Mentoring
hours

30
Total years
in service



EFS COVID-19 *Childcare Relief Fund*

\$237,000 Relief Provided

\$142,000 - Dallas County Relief
\$84,000 - Tarrant County Relief

456 Teachers Served

263 - Dallas County Teachers
180 - Tarrant County Teachers

105 Grant Recipients

64 - Dallas County recipients
37 - Tarrant County recipients
5 - North Texas Counties supported

3,418 Children Served

1,986 - Children birth to 5 in Dallas County
1,300 - Children birth to 5 in Tarrant County