



Community Learning Report: Southwest Denver

January 2021



EARLY MILESTONES
COLORADO

earlymilestones.org/launch-together

About the Initiative

LAUNCH Together is a unique partnership between Early Milestones, eight Colorado-based foundations, the Butler Institute for Families, and communities throughout the state. The initiative is designed to improve social-emotional and developmental outcomes for Colorado's young children and families, support system-level collaboration, and reduce mental health disparities among vulnerable populations.

For more information about the history and implementation of LAUNCH Together in Colorado, visit earlymilestones.org/launch-together.



About the Community

Southwest Denver (the Community) is home to about 12,500 children under the age of eight. From 2016 to 2020, the area's LAUNCH Together team provided opportunities to enhance services critical to social-emotional and developmental outcomes for these young children and their families. System-level partnerships also focused on building capacity in areas that help every child, family, and provider to flourish. This brief highlights work in early care and education (ECE) settings under the Community's larger LAUNCH Together efforts.

To learn more about LAUNCH Together Southwest Denver please visit denverearlychildhood.org/our-work/child-health-well-being/

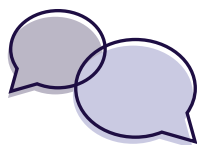
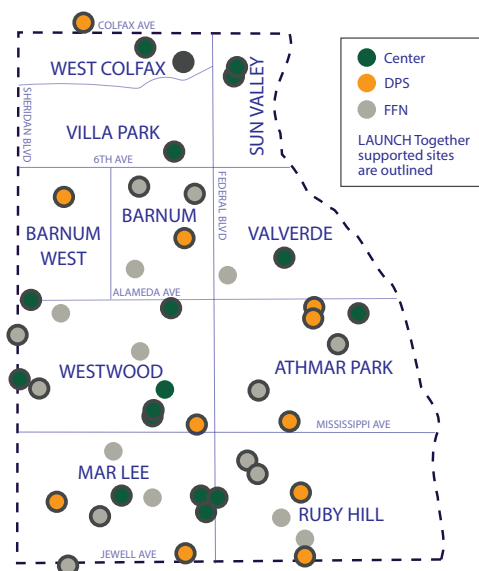
LAUNCH Together Southwest Denver Partners

Clayton Early Learning
Denver Children's Advocacy Center
Denver Health
Denver Great Kids Head Start
Denver Human Services
Denver Public Health

Denver Public Schools, Early Education, & Child Find
Denver's Early Childhood Council
LifeSpan Local
Mental Health Center of Denver
Rocky Mountain Human Services
Roots Family Center

Community in Action

Southwest Denver includes a range of ECE providers from family, friend, and neighbor (FFN) caregivers to large center-based providers. A total of 64 child care providers served Southwest Denver between 2017 and 2020, including sites operated by Denver Public Schools (DPS).



Targeted support was provided to FFN caregivers including training opportunities on using trauma-informed practices to support high-quality child care.



Nearly 2,000 kits of learning materials, including books and classroom supplies, were distributed in 2020.



41 ECE partner sites were supported by LAUNCH Together Southwest Denver between 2017 and 2020.



A toolkit was created to clarify key aspects of quality care and how to engage families, FFN caregivers, and the community. It features tip sheets, videos, activity suggestions, and other resources.

2200

More than 2,200 hours of early childhood mental health consultation support were provided in 2020, including transition to virtual services during COVID-19.

134

In 2020, social-emotional coaches provided 134 hours of direct coaching support to individual teachers and classroom teams at 14 different sites including eight DPS locations focused on Conscious Discipline tools.

STORY OF IMPACT

Little Einstein's Academy provides care for 63 children with 12 teachers across 4 classrooms in the Ruby Hill neighborhood. High stress and challenging student behaviors were causing significant staff burnout. LAUNCH Together Southwest Denver provided support to the school and community through mental health consultation, social-emotional professional development, and other learning programs for children and adults. Little Einstein's now employs an internal coach to support students, families, and educators. The learning environment experiences fewer challenging incidents. The center also became a Clayton Early Learning partner site and now offers Head Start slots.

Local Lessons



MULTIPLE LAYERS OF SUPPORT PROVIDE POWERFUL IMPACT.

ECE sites that receive various methods of support are better able to meet needs in a timely and efficient way.



EMBEDDING SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING COACHING STRENGTHENS SUSTAINABILITY.

Ongoing social-emotional learning coaching provides valuable capacity building for ECE sites to support children's social and emotional health.



SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL SKILL BUILDING YIELDS RESULTS.

Focused tools and strategies help providers and caregivers to address challenging behaviors, teach essential skills, and build stronger relationships between the classroom and home.



SUCCESSFUL MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATION DEPENDS ON RELATIONSHIPS.

Engaging ECE sites with multiple mental health consultation outreach strategies builds knowledge and trust.

Next Steps

Additional investment and strategic support will be needed to achieve truly coordinated systems and successful outcomes. Community partners continue to work toward ensuring:

- Safe, supportive, and nurturing environments;
- Access to quality ECE, primary health care, and mental health services;
- Developmentally and culturally appropriate, high-quality learning experiences for all children;
- Strong relationships between families and ECE providers;
- Strong connections between caregivers and children; and
- Self-care and mental health support for caregivers and families.

Initiative Funders



The Colorado Health Foundation™

