

# The Vision for the Early Childhood System in Kent County

All kids healthy, thriving, and ready.





# What it takes for all of our kids to succeed in school and life.



## Children Start School Healthy and Ready to Learn

Our community must have the policies, programs, and supports in place so that

- Babies are born healthy
- Children are healthy, thriving, and developmentally on track
- Children are ready to learn when they start school.



## Inclusion and Equity

Families should be supported and empowered by an early childhood system that builds on their strengths and meets their unique needs. With a focus on equity, we must address disparate outcomes for children from economically disadvantaged households and children of color.



## Investing Early

Investing in an early childhood system that helps ALL children and families thrive will lead to a community in which EVERYONE can fully participate and contribute.

## Accessible Resources for Families



**Parenting Engagement, Support, and Education**  
Parents have the knowledge and skills to support their children's health, development, and learning.



**Healthy Development**  
Children have comprehensive, coordinated care that maximizes their physical and emotional health.



**Early Learning**  
Children have high quality early learning experiences that nurture their cognitive, social, and emotional development.

## Foundations of the System



Data & Evaluation



Coordination & Alignment



Quality Improvement



Public & Political Will



Thriving Neighborhoods



Connections to Other Systems

FirstStepsKent.org

Our community values data and uses it to make decisions and measure progress. Services and programs are evidence-based and aimed at meeting our community's most pressing needs so we can move forward in ensuring our children experience equitable outcomes.

This community vision was developed in collaboration with many partners.





The Vision for the Early Childhood System in Kent County shows us what is required for every young child in our community to enter kindergarten healthy and ready to succeed in school and life. It is based on years of hard work and collaboration from parents, educators, service providers, county government, and business and philanthropic leaders who are continuously identifying our community's most urgent needs, best practices to address them, and creative solutions to support and sustain them. This vision aligns with state and national efforts to build effective early childhood systems but is unique to the needs of Kent County. Strengthening the system so that it works for all young children and their families requires ongoing commitment from all of us – those who raise and love young children, those who work within the early childhood system, those who make policies, and those who want this community to be as equitable and prosperous as possible.

Please visit [www.firststepskent.org](http://www.firststepskent.org) to learn more about the different components of the early childhood system, how we are measuring our collective progress, and the many partners who continue to work toward making this vision a reality.

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