



# EARLY LEARNING HUBS:

MAKING SURE OUR KIDS ARE READY FOR KINDERGARTEN

Early Learning Hubs in 16 regions across Oregon are getting cross-sector partners to work together to create local systems that are **aligned, coordinated, and family-centered**. Families receive the support they need to become **healthy, stable and attached** and their children receive the **early learning experiences** they need to thrive.



**Why is early learning so important?** Decades of research has shown that the first five years are important brain building years that shape our children's futures. Quality early learning experiences are predictors of health, happiness, growth, development and learning achievement at school. **They mean our children show up to kindergarten:**



**Able to focus in the classroom**



**Able to recognize letters & numbers**, putting them on the path of a lifetime of literacy and reading



**Ready to learn** because their social, emotional and cognitive development is on track



**Able to transition from one activity to the next**



**Make third-grade proficiency benchmarks**, an important indicator of high school graduation

**Early learning means children grow and thrive.**



## Early learning for all our kids

There are 250,000 children under the age of five in Oregon. Of those children, 130,000 are exposed to risk factors from the moment they are born. **That's more than half.**

While these factors may be out of their control, making sure these children get access to early learning experiences before they are six, while their families also get access to support services **is in our control**—and it can change everything for these children and their families.

It is critical that our communities support families when factors are present that prevent their children from having early learning experiences.

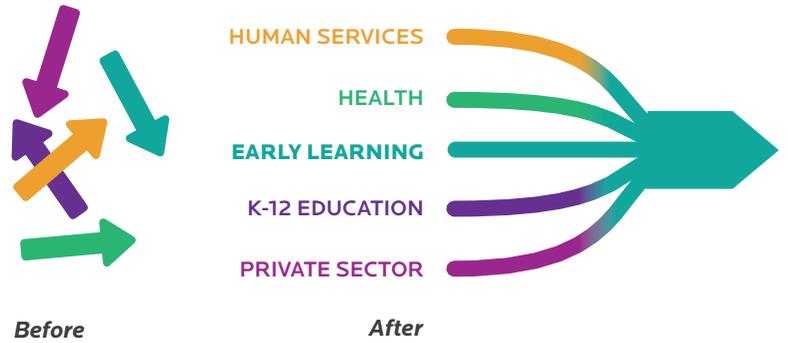
## So, why isn't this happening? *It is and we're getting better.*

As a state, Oregon is program rich. We do good work. We have programs and resources addressing the different needs of families historically underserved.

Yet sometimes they do not work together and/or they offer duplicative and redundant services. Families already in a vulnerable state become overwhelmed trying to understand *what they qualify for, what is available to them and from whom, and where to start.*

Instead of enabling families to think about what they might want for their child's future, we cause them to give up because our system is difficult to navigate. But, this is changing.

*Early Learning Hubs are creating streamlined systems that are easier to navigate for families, increase access to and enrollment in quality childcare and preschool, and improve the quality of preschool provider care.*



## How we are making a difference

*One of the best preliminary outcomes is the relationships that have been developed. Our partners are engaged in ongoing communication that wasn't happening before. The importance of these conversations cannot be overstated. Cade Burnett, Blue Mountain Early Learning Hub*

### Aligned, coordinated and family-centered early learning system

Metro-area hubs promoted region-wide early kindergarten registration through the "Register for Kindergarten by June" campaign. The campaign hosted events with local businesses, school districts and preschool providers. It placed ads on bus benches and PSAs on radio stations. Local businesses donated tee shirts for kids who registered early. **Early registration and kinder transition activities = more children ready for kindergarten.**



### Children arriving at kindergarten ready to succeed

South Coast's Early Learning Hub organized a Kindergarten Round Up in Myrtle Point. Families who enrolled their kids early received free kindergarten kits, parenting education, and enrollment in a summer, pre-k program. They also had the opportunity to connect with teachers and other families, fostering community between families, schools and partners. **Parents become active participants in their child's education and success.**

### Children living in families that are healthy stable and attached

The Linn Benton Lincoln Early Learning Hub in partnership with local health care partners is reaching out to new parents and families. After assessing a family's needs they are coordinating classes, services and supports for siblings and parents so the whole family experiences delight and success with the arrival of their new family member. Coordinating multiple community partners provides a one-stop access point for families who need to be connected to numerous services and supports to be successful. **Hub increases developmental screenings and well-child visits in babies and young children.**



### Get Involved!

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Want to see what your local hub is up to? Visit us online! [oregonearlylearning.com/early-learning-hubs/](http://oregonearlylearning.com/early-learning-hubs/)

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