

# Closing disparities in early learning opportunities gives all kids a foundation for success

*Kindergarten-readiness provides lifelong benefits, but COVID-19 exacerbated long-standing gaps in preschool engagement for the disadvantaged*

*Nationwide Children's Hospital*

Produced by: MediaSource <a href="http://www.mediasourcetv.com">www.mediasourcetv.com</a>	To download broadcast-quality video and other multimedia elements: <a href="https://bit.ly/3f33DCO">https://bit.ly/3f33DCO</a>
Package Length: 1:54	Content provided by: <b>Nationwide Children's Hospital</b>

## NEWS PACKAGE

<b>SUGGESTED TEASE</b>	GIVING ALL KIDS THE FOUNDATION FOR A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE. COMING UP, HOW EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EARLY LEARNING CAN CLOSE GAPS THAT HAVE EXISTED FOR DECADES, BUT WERE MADE WORSE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.
<b>ANCHOR LEAD</b>	PREPARING TODDLERS AND YOUNG KIDS WITH THE SKILLS AND EDUCATION THEY NEED TO BE KINDERGARTEN-READY GIVES THEM A PROVEN FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS. BUT NOT ALL KIDS HAVE THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE IN PRESCHOOL AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, A PROBLEM THAT HAS EXISTED FOR YEARS BUT WAS MADE VERY OBVIOUS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, BARB CONSGILIO HAS THE DETAILS ON HOW EXPERTS ARE WORKING TO EXPAND PROGRAMS AND EMPOWER PARENTS TO HELP GET ALL KIDS OFF ON THE RIGHT FOOT IN SCHOOL.
<b>(PACKAGE START) -----</b> <b>CG: Courtesy: Nationwide Children's Hospital</b> <b>:00 - :03</b>	<i>00:25:16 "I can count this much. One, two, three..." :03</i>
Shots of Luzia in tutoring session at home	FIVE-YEAR-OLD LUZIA (lieu-ZEE-uh) IS READY FOR KINDERGARTEN. :02 <i>(Nats of Luzia learning) :02</i>
Shots of Luzia learning	THESE SKILLS WILL SET LUZIA UP FOR SUCCESS FOR YEARS TO COME. RESEARCH SHOWS KIDS WHO DEMONSTRATE KINDERGARTEN READINESS ARE MORE LIKELY TO HAVE HIGHER GRADES, GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL, AND EVEN HAVE FEWER BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS. BUT EARLY EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ARE NOT THE SAME FOR EVERY CHILD. :10
<b>CG: Mary Kay Irwin, EdD</b>	<i>"In these communities where the data is clear and black</i>

**Producers and Reporters: To download scripts, video and photos go to:**

<http://www.multimedia-newsroom.com>



<p><b>Nationwide Children’s Hospital</b></p> <p>Shots of tutoring</p> <p><b>CG: Sara Bode, MD Nationwide Children’s Hospital</b></p> <p>Shot of Dr. Bode with colleague Shot of parent and child reading together Shots of counting kids blueberries on plate</p> <p><b>Dr. Bode (CG’d earlier)</b></p> <p>Shot of parent in pediatrician’s office</p> <p><b>Dr. Bode (CG’d earlier)</b></p> <p><b>CG: Carlean Denby Parent</b></p> <p>Shots of Carlean and Luzia</p>	<p><i>and brown children do not have the same access or the same outcomes as their white peers, our hospital is focused on that area and how to do better.” :11</i></p> <p>IT’S A LONGSTANDING ISSUE MADE MORE OBVIOUS BY COVID-19. PARTICIPATION IN PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS DROPPED DURING THE PANDEMIC, ESPECIALLY AMONG FAMILIES LIVING IN POVERTY. :05</p> <p><i>“What can we do to make sure we’re addressing this for all families across the board? To make sure that when students start in kindergarten, there’s an equal playing field there.” :08</i></p> <p>TALKING WITH YOUR PEDIATRICIAN IS A GOOD PLACE FOR PARENTS TO START. THEY CAN SUGGEST SIMPLE HABITS TO ADOPT LIKE READING TOGETHER BEFORE BEDTIME AND FINDING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN DAILY LIFE, SUCH AS COUNTING THE BLUEBERRIES ON YOUR PLATE AT LUNCHTIME. :10</p> <p><i>“At every visit with my families, when I’m seeing them in the office, it’s really talking about what are those activities? What should they be doing with their kids in their free time together as a family? And how do they keep those up every day to make sure that their child’s getting to that next level each month and building those skills?” :16</i></p> <p>YOUR PEDIATRICIAN CAN ALSO HELP YOU FIND SUPPORT AND RESOURCES WHEN YOU NEED THEM. :03</p> <p><i>‘They can be a gateway to, ‘How do I get connected to my community, with all these programs that may be helpful and support my child?’” :07</i></p> <p><i>“I think it’s very important to get as many kids ready for kindergarten because every child deserves that head start.” :08</i></p> <p>NATIONWIDE CHILDREN’S SPARK PROGRAM, WHICH INCREASES KINDERGARTEN READINESS SCORES FOR NINETY-FIVE PERCENT OF PARTICIPANTS, PREPARED ALL OF CARLEAN DENBY’S CHILDREN FOR SCHOOL AND NOW HER YOUNGEST IS READY TO TAKE ON KINDERGARTEN. :10</p> <p><i>“Oh, I missed 96. 96.” :03</i></p>
---	--

**Producers and Reporters: To download scripts, video and photos go to:**

<http://www.multimedia-newsroom.com>

<p>Shots of Carlean and Luzia</p> <p><b>(PACKAGE END) -----</b></p> <p><b>ANCHOR TAG</b></p>	<p>AT NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, THIS IS BARB CONSIGLIO REPORTING. :03</p> <hr/> <p>KINDERGARTEN READINESS IS SO IMPORTANT THAT EXPERTS AT NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HAVE NAMED IT ONE OF EIGHT PEDIATRIC VITAL SIGNS THAT WERE DEVELOPED TO MEASURE AND IMPROVE A CHILD'S OVERALL WELLBEING, INCLUDING THINGS LIKE REGULAR HEALTH SCREENINGS, VACCINATIONS AND SUICIDE PREVENTION.</p> <p>THE HOPE IS THAT PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS WILL QUICKLY EXPAND WITH THE ADOPTION OF THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S AMERICAN FAMILIES PLAN, WHICH PROPOSES FREE, HIGH-QUALITY PRESCHOOL FOR THREE- AND FOUR-YEAR-OLDS.</p>
--	--

### SOCIAL MEDIA

<p> <b>Share it! Suggested tweet:</b></p> <p> <b>Suggested post:</b></p>	<p>Experts at <a href="https://twitter.com/NationwideKids">@NationwideKids</a> are working to close disparities in early educational opportunities and give all kids the skills to be kindergarten-ready, proven to set them up for success for years to come. <a href="https://bit.ly/3f33DCO">https://bit.ly/3f33DCO</a></p> <hr/> <p>Not all kids have the same opportunities for early learning, a problem made even worse during the COVID-19 pandemic. Experts at <a href="https://www.nationwidechildrens.org">Nationwide Children's Hospital</a> are working to close the gaps to give every child the skills and knowledge they need to be successful in kindergarten and beyond. <a href="https://bit.ly/3f33DCO">https://bit.ly/3f33DCO</a></p>
---	--

### EXTRA BITES

<p><b>CG: Sara Bode, MD</b> <b>Nationwide Children's Hospital</b></p>	<p>Bode says focusing on early learning in addition to physical health will help kids in the future: <i>"If we keep you physically healthy, but you get to school and you're not ready to learn and you're not passing your grades and you're not graduating high school, what is your ultimate outcome? It's not the best it can be. So we need to care just as much about that as we do with their physical health."</i> :16</p> <p>Bode says physical health is only part of what constitutes overall wellbeing: <i>"If we do everything we can to keep them physically healthy, but we don't think about, or address their emotional health, their social health, their school readiness, high school graduation. If we aren't addressing those things, then we're really only affecting a very small part of what's going to ultimately make sure whether that child's healthy or not."</i> :19</p>
---	--

**Producers and Reporters: To download scripts, video and photos go to:**

<http://www.multimedia-newsroom.com>

**CG: Sara Bode, MD**  
Nationwide Children's Hospital

Bode says kids who are kindergarten ready are more likely to be successful in the future:  
*"We know that kids that have these early skills, and work hard to develop their reading skills, their developmental skills, if they start kindergarten on time, it's much more likely for them to have success later on, graduate high school, have secondary education, all of those things."*  
:16

Bode says she discusses learning and development with patient families at every visit:  
*"At every visit with my families, when I'm seeing them in the office, it's really talking about what are those activities? What should they be doing with their kids in their free time together as a family? And how do they keep those up every day to make sure that their child's getting to that next level each month and building those skills? So that when they start kindergarten, they already have them."* :19

---

Irwin says kindergarten readiness ties into future educational and health-related outcomes:  
*"The evidence is really clear that if a child comes to school ready to learn that they are not only going to experience more success academically, but they are also more likely to graduate high school on time. They are less likely to have issues with discipline. They are more likely to have gained full employment as adults. And it has a direct tie to healthcare outcomes."* :20

**CG: Mary Kay Irwin, EdD**  
Nationwide Children's Hospital

Irwin explains how the pandemic affected kindergarten readiness:  
*"What we're afraid of is that many of them did not attend early learning programs. Those that otherwise would have. As an example, many early learning programs were forced to shut down, and, so the access just wasn't there. Plus, people were afraid to send their children."* :13

Irwin says they are focused on addressing disparities in education and healthcare:  
*"We have to really be super focused in those particular regions to figure out what it is that we're going to do to create an equitable experience, not only for access to healthcare, but also for children to enter kindergarten ready to learn in the neighborhoods that need something a little bit different."* :17

**CG: Carlean Denby**  
Parent

---

Carlean says her kids kindergarten teachers have noticed their readiness skills:  
*"When they start kindergarten, I know it's their teachers who actually notice the difference. They are rated on their numbers, letters, shapes."* :09

<p><b>CG: Carlean Denby Parent</b></p>	<p>Carlean describes the tutoring sessions in her home with SPARK:  <i>“Ms. Mickie actually comes out, interacts with them, gets them ready for kindergarten, teaches them all kinds of cool things, reads to them.” :10</i></p> <p>Carlean says the SPARK program provides education her kids might not otherwise have access to:  <i>“Sometimes with these inner cities, we don't always get the education, our children don't always get the education that they need. That's why I really liked the SPARK program because I felt it does give them a head start and gives them the tools they need to be prepared for school.” :19</i></p>
--	--

### References

<sup>1</sup>*Improving the Health of All Children in Our Community: The Nationwide Children's Hospital and Franklin County, Ohio, Pediatric Vital Signs Project, The Journal of Pediatrics, Volume 222, July 1, 2020.* Online: [https://www.jpeds.com/article/S0022-3476\(20\)30428-5/abstract](https://www.jpeds.com/article/S0022-3476(20)30428-5/abstract)

**For viewer information on this story contact:**

Nationwide Children’s Hospital: (614) 355-0495

Log onto <http://www.NationwideChildrens.org> - click on “News Room”

Produced by:



1800 West 5th Ave.

Columbus, Ohio 43212

Phone: (614) 932-9950 Fax: (614) 932-9920

[www.mediasourcetv.com](http://www.mediasourcetv.com)

**Video content provided by: Nationwide Children’s Hospital**

**Marketing Department: (614) 355-0495**

**Producers and Reporters: To download scripts, video and photos go to:**

<http://www.multimedia-newsroom.com>