Kickstarting Kindergarten

Children from low-income backgrounds begin kindergarten less prepared for traditional schooling as their higher-income peers (Hair et al., 2006). Without any preschool experience, these children are even less likely to develop strong school readiness (Feller et al., 2016; Kline & Walters, 2016). Offering a summer enrichment program may be one way to facilitate a smooth transition to kindergarten and ensure all children arrive at school ready to learn (McCombs et al., 2019). An evaluation study revealed that children who participated gained four months of self-regulation skills during the three-week program and began kindergarten with similar literacy skills as their peers who attended a full year of preschool (Duncan et al., 2018). *Kickstarting Kindergarten was adapted from Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Bridge to Kindergarten program.*

Effective programs require three weeks minimum for four hours per day.	Provide: • Transportation (if needed) • Snack or meal • Family engagement activities	Located in the same school child will attend, if possible.	Corporations should provide training for teachers before they begin program.	Preference should be given to children without or with limited in-person pre-K experience.	Pre- and post-assessments should be administered to evaluate effectiveness of the program.

The Kickstarting Kindergarten program is presumed to be effective because children are given the opportunity to familiarize themselves with routines, such as lining up, visiting the cafeteria, and riding the bus. They have the context to practice self-regulation.

Most supplies needed are commonly found in kindergarten classrooms.

EARLY LEARNING
Indiana Department of Education

Corporations manage transportation, teacher pay, and site coordinators.

Each school handles the recruitment of families, offers an open house, as well as an end-of-program celebration.

Corporations may use CARES money to fund the program.

For guidance or questions, please contact Robin LeClaire.