Early Childhood Learning

Summit
**Education
Initiative**

high quality universal pre-k

High quality universal pre-k (HQUP) programs have been shown to:
 - positively impact learning and development over the life course [1] [2]
 - build socio-emotional skills
 - reduce school dropout rates
 - reduce crime and delinquency
 - improve workforce preparedness
 - increases economic earnings in adulthood [3]
                                    and so much more! [4]

Local support for these programs is strong. Akron's Mayor, Shammas Malik, endorsed the development of HQUP during his campaign and SEI's First Things First Collaborative Action Network found support for these programs across over a dozen local ECL agencies. [5]

kindergarten readiness

Attending HQUP helps prepare children for Kindergarten. Kindergarten readiness (KR), as measured by the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA), is complex as it relies on many factors across Summit County and beyond. [6]
The KRA is administered to all Kindergarten students at the beginning of the school year.

However, there are many differences among families regarding the decision of when to send their child to school. Sometimes, this is not a matter of actual readiness gaps, but rather variation in the resources necessary to keep a child home for another year. Well-resourced families have broader options with which to weigh their decisions. [7]

KRA Snapshot

percent of Summit County students on track per subscale in 2022-23

48%
language and literacy

60%
social foundations

59%
mathematics

60%
physical development
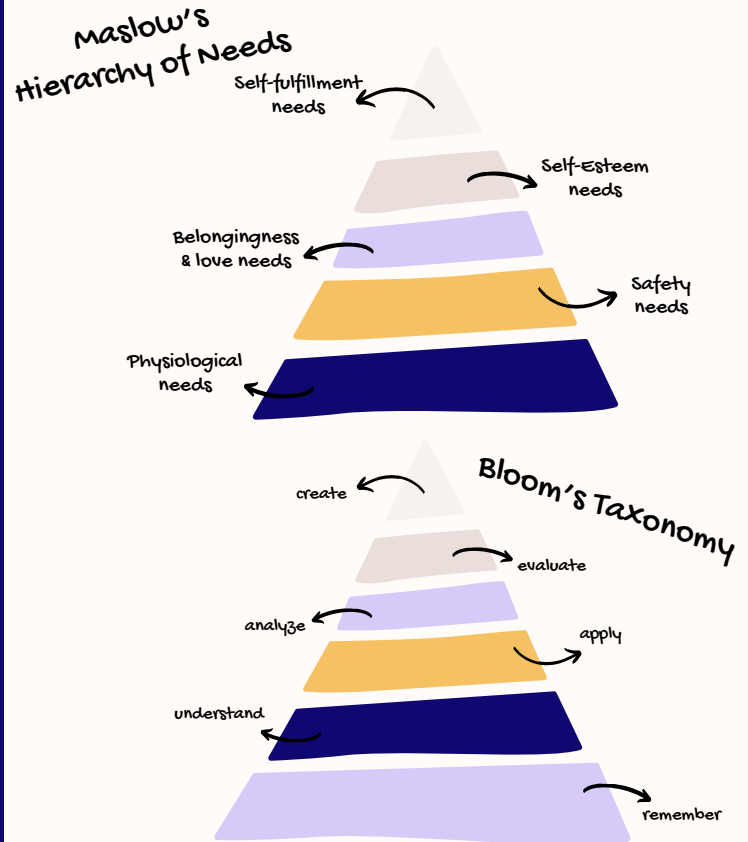
"You have to Maslow before you can Bloom"

First Things First Breakfast 2023, a Collaborative Action Network of SEI

bridging the gap

Early Childhood Learning (ECL), a term encompassing both HQUP and Kindergarten Readiness, helps meet children's needs and is linked to a myriad of positive long-term life outcomes, including upward economic mobility, positive health outcomes, and increased educational attainment. [8] [9]

Needs-based pre-k programs have been effective at improving ECL experiences and lifetime socio-economic outcomes for disadvantaged youth, but their reach is limited only to those who qualify. [10]

Establishing systems that bring quality learning experiences to all children from the beginning of their lives is a critical step toward closing achievement and equity gaps. [11]

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

- Self-fulfillment needs
- Self-Esteem needs
- Belongingness & love needs
- Safety needs
- Physiological needs

Bloom's Taxonomy

- create
- evaluate
- analyze
- apply
- understand
- remember

Contact Us:

120 E. Mill St. #330, Akron, OH 44308

David James, Ed. D.
djames@seisummit.org

330-535-8833

seisummit.org

Building a Bright Future for Summit County's Children

Summit Education Initiative is committed to ensuring students are ready for their first day of kindergarten. Students who start kindergarten on track are more likely to pass third-grade reading, setting them up for future success.

To support this crucial milestone, SEI facilitates several Collaborative Action Networks (CANs) focused on ECL and KR. In addition to our networks, we developed the 16 for Success Tip Card, which comprises 16 of the developmental skills needed for kindergarten readiness. Along with the tip card, SEI has worked with the Barberton & Akron-Summit County Public Library to create the 16 for Success booklist, which includes a carefully curated list of books that promote these essential skills.

References:
1) Gray-Lobe et al., 2022, https://academic.oup.com/qje/article/138/1/363/6701924
2) Elango et al., 2016, https://www.bibliovault.org/BV.landing.epl?ISBN=9780226392523
3) National Education Association, 2021. https://www.nea.org/advocating-for-change/action-center/our-issues/early-childhood-education
4) Malik for Akron, 2023, https://www.malikforakron.com/learning
5) First Things First Collaborative Action Network, https://summitcountyfirstthingsfirst.org/
6) ODE, Early Learning and Development Standards (2022), https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Early-Learning/Early-Learning-Content-Standards

7) Hatcher and Paulsel, 2012, https://eric.ed.gov/?id=EJ997132
8) Barnett and Frede, 2010, https://eric.ed.gov/?id=EJ889144
9) Lasser and Fite, 2011, http://link.springer.com/10.1007/s10643-011-0449-x
10) Duncan and Magnuson, 2013, https://pubs.aeaweb.org/doi/10.1257/jep.27.2.109
11) Casico, 2023, https://jhr.uwpress.org/content/58/1/1
12) image, p.1: https://thewinnerschool.com/10-things-you-need-to-know-about-preschool-programs/