
Early Language & Literacy Coalition Update



Announcing the Director of The Chattahoochee Valley Basics

Grace Nagel has been selected as The Basics Chattahoochee Valley's first Director. In her new role, Grace will be working throughout our community and focus on regional communications, partner organizations and sector focused outreach, and neighborhood outreach.

"I dream of making a difference in my local, national, and global communities. As I begin this role, I am excited about the opportunity and look forward to working with community partners, stakeholders, and parents to ensure every child has a great start in life," said Grace.

With seven years of experience in programs targeting vulnerable populations and a selfstarter, can-do attitude, we are confident that Grace will make an excellent Director of The Basics Chattahoochee Valley! Whether in Columbus, Georgia or Dakar, Senegal, her work history shows a passion for making non-profit and governmental programs count.

Some fun facts about Grace:

- She is a Columbus native
- She worked in the Peace Corps for 3 years
- She has a rescue cat named Miss Kitty
- She loves roadside farmers markets
- She enjoys cooking and baking

The Basics Chattahoochee Valley is a regional initiative launched by a group of committed individuals and organizations working to make sure every child gets a great start in life. It is under the vision of our community strategic plan – Columbus 2025 – to increase prosperity, reduce poverty, and improve the quality of life for everyone, even the newest citizens to our region. The Community Foundation of the Chattahoochee Valley is using its unrestricted Community Endowment Funds to underwrite the first three years of the operating budget of The Basics, until 2023, in a belief that early investment in our youngest citizens offers our community the best chance to reduce poverty and maximize success.



Maximize Love, Manage Stress

Children thrive when their world feels loving, safe, and predictable. During this time of transitions back to school or child care, parents and caregivers can use

The Basics tool of Maximize Love, Manage Stress in these easy ways:

1. Have a routine: Even in the best of times, babies, toddlers and children crave structure and order. Getting into a routine can help make children feel less worried and anxious.
2. Talk about feelings: Teach children to name their feelings and let them know it is okay to feel happy, sad, angry, scared. Let them know you are there for them.
3. Encourage them: Toddlers and children gain confidence from trying new tasks and activities. Providing positive feedback and praising their efforts helps them develop resilience.

Staying emotionally present for children increases their happiness, strengthens their emotional health, and builds self-control skills. [Click here for more tips on using The Basics.](#)

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Website

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Back to School Preparation 2020

Going back to school is a time of big transitions and this can be exciting and stressful. This year, as students, parents, teachers, and administrators, and students return to the classroom, stress and anxiety are possibly higher than ever.

Focusing on social and emotional well-being are critical for childhood development and learning. Using the Basics tool of Maximize Love, Manage Stress can be useful for parents, teachers, and administrators alike. In addition to the ideas above, practicing self-care, praising efforts and kindness, and guiding behavior are also great ways to help children have a positive learning experience during this time.

As surrounding school districts begin to re-open, here are a few goals for caregivers, parents, and community partners to promote:

Student goals

- Be comfortable with routine (not panicked or anxious)
- Know how to access virtual platforms
- Log in daily and on time
- Be engaged and remain focus

Parent/Caregiver goals

- Provide a safe, clean, and quite space for students
- Stay connected with teachers and school staff
- Provide updated contact information
- Explore resources for assistance

Check out the links below for information on registration, enrollment, and technology support for parents and students.

[MCS D Parent Tech Academy Resources](#)

[Phenix City School District](#)

[RCSD Parent/Student Tech Portal](#)

[Harris County School District](#)



2-1-1 and Community Needs

2-1-1 is there to provide help when you need it the most. Are you looking for during/after school programs for your children? Access to food during the pandemic? Information about or testing for COVID 19? Simply dial 2-1-1 or text your zip code to 898-211 to be linked to thousands of different types of community services and resources.



Monitoring Attendance in Distant Learning

Being present in a virtual classroom poses different hurdles than a traditional classroom. Attendance Works is proposing four additional key metrics to combat absences in a distance learning environment. Those metrics are Contact, Connectivity, Relationships and, and Participation. Possible data points are suggested as well. [Visit the website to learn more about how parents and community partners can support distance learning.](#)

RESOURCES

A free service tailored for a child's age from



pregnancy to 8!

Georgia's families have a new resource to support children's growth and development. GPB Education has partnered with Bright by Text to send tips, activities and information to help parents and caregivers raise healthy, happy kids. To sign up, [visit their website](#) or text GPB to 274448.

WEBINARS



Attendance Awareness Campaign Webinar

Wednesday, August 19, 2020 | 2pm-3:30pm ET
[Register Here](#)

How can we restore a positive learning environment in the midst of a pandemic? Here is an opportunity to learn with Attendance Works. The webinar, [Creating an Engaging and Restorative Environment to Support Transitions to School](#), is offering activities and strategies that can be put in place as we begin a new school year. The focus of this event is on addressing the impact of trauma while re-establishing the routine of school. [Read more](#)



We Want to Hear From You

Share your joys and challenges with us as you care for yourself, the people around you, and the families you serve. Let us know what resources you find helpful. We're here to listen, support, and strengthen our community. [Email our team today.](#)

Common Agenda

The Early Language and Literacy Coalition works to create a community where all children thrive. Our collective impact approach supports, promotes, and complements community wide initiatives of Get Georgia Reading, The Basics Chattahoochee Valley, and Columbus 2025. We engage with a cross-sector of community partners to ensure all children become proficient readers by the end of third grade, paving the way to improved outcomes throughout school and life.

Early Language and Literacy Coalition Background

Early Language and Literacy partners in the Chattahoochee Valley recognize that literacy is much more than an education issue. Our efforts to change long-term outcomes must begin early—long before children enter kindergarten. We are focused on the root causes of why a child might not be reading. Root causes include early brain development and language-rich interactions with infants and toddlers, school attendance, summer learning loss, and the influence of physical and mental health on all aspects of learning and development. Far too many children in our community lack access to quality health care, housing, nutrition, and supportive learning environments. And far too many children experience the trauma of stress and violence in their homes and neighborhoods, inhibiting their ability to learn and grow. Children cannot learn when they are hungry, sick, or scared.



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