
Early Language & Literacy Coalition Update

Enroll Today!



Now Enrolling!

Learning begins at birth, and the first few years of a child's life are critical to their development. Early childhood education provides a holistic approach for a child's emotional, cognitive, and physical development. With schools transitioning to the choice model, now is a great time to enroll in PreK and Head Start/Early Head Start. There are open spaces in each of these valuable programs. We hope all partners will advocate for early learning by visiting the links below to learn more, find out about registration options, and share with others.

Enroll Now by following the links below:

- [Muscogee County School District](#)
- [Phenix City School District](#)
- [Enrichment Services](#)

Infants and toddlers are like scientists—curious and excited to learn about their surroundings. They learn about their environment through movement and play. Encourage curiosity, discovery, and a healthy body.

The Basics tool of Explore Through Movement & Play in these easy ways.

Tips for infants (0-12 Months)

- Encourage supervised tummy time. An infant might explore by touching, grasping, banging something, or crawling.
- Play Peek-a-Boo by hiding your face with your hands. You can also hide objects behind you or under a towel for your baby to find.

Tips for toddlers (12-36 Months):

- Create an obstacle course, where your child will have to go over, under, and around objects. A toddler might explore by walking or climbing.
- Play hide and seek to develop their thinking skills. Caregivers can even give voice cues while hiding.

Movement and play are good for children's bodies and brains. [Click here for more tips on using The Basics.](#)

Visit The Basics
Website

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Count us in! Census 2020

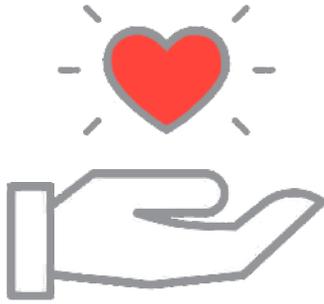
The deadline to complete the 2020 Census is September 30. We're asking all partners to join us in sharing this important message with your participants, team, colleagues, and friends. Currently, the response rate in Muscogee County is 57.4% and in Russell County it is 58.3%. These rates are lower than the respective state and national averages, and lower than the local 2010 response rates. Why is responding to the census important? Census results will help shape the future of our community and determine how billions of dollars in federal funding is distributed for important programs and services in education, healthcare, infrastructure, and emergency response. And, it will impact our representation in Congress.

Together, we can all help spread the word and make a difference.

For more information please contact Jim at 706-256-2910 or jlivingston@rivervalleyrc.org

To learn more about the Census visit 2020census.gov

View the self response by Census tract online by [clicking here.](#)



Food insecurity has grown since the pandemic began - today 1 in 3 people are food insecure. Since March, partners across our community have collaborated to ensure that children have continued access to food, with special focus on the breaks in feeding programs from area school districts. During the transition from summer to the start of school, 14 different partners came together to deliver nutritious meals for four weeks. As a result, more than 30,000 meals were delivered to more than 2,400 students at 19 sites (including 12 schools and 7 neighborhood sites). This effort was made possible through an effective cross-sector partnership, Feeding the Valley, United Way, and funding through the Coronavirus Response Fund.



When families are **engaged** students show up to school



#schooleveryday

Present, Engaged, and Supported

This year – more than ever before – there is a great need to invest in the transition back to school for both students and families. Everyone plays a role in ensuring children attend school regularly. The focus of the 2020 Attendance Awareness Campaign is establishing and maintaining regular communication with families and welcoming them as partners to help ensure that students are supported at home and in school. Follow the link below to see how you can help.

[Attendance Awareness](#)

RESOURCES



Supporting Onsite Learning for Virtual Education Program (SOLVE)

Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) will receive over \$17 million dollars to assist families of students aged 5 to 12 years old by offering the SOLVE program. These funds were allocated by the CARES Act to assist working families whose schools are offering a

virtual learning model. Caregivers can apply by visiting: <https://gateway.ga.gov/> or calling 1-833-442-2277.

[Download the PDF flyer](#)



Get Connected. Get Help.™

Extended Childcare

As local schools phase in the choice model for instruction, parents and caregivers can contact 211 to find out about local resources. Local programs are beginning traditional after school service and several programs are continuing to provide safe, supported virtual learning centers. Call 211, text your zip code to 898211 or search for “Extended Child Care” on the web at www.211uwc.org for the latest childcare updates.



Resources to Help Young Parents Thrive

The Annie E. Casey Foundation compiled several resources that can help service providers better align their programs with the needs of young families and understand what approaches work best in serving this population. While the key findings occurred before COVID, they are still vital in helping families thrive. Included is information related to education, workforce development, fatherhood, and the two-generational approach. We hope partners will be able to use the findings to assist young families.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

WEBINARS

Conversations on Early Childhood featuring Dr. Rosemarie Trugilo

GEEARS: Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students is excited to present this virtual event for parents and caregivers. Join us for this free virtual event, [September 15th, from 2:00 – 3:00 pm EDT](#), to talk with Dr. Rosemarie Trugilo about how Georgia can better learn, grow, and play with our kids.

[Register now](#)



Speaker Series:
Conversations on Early Childhood
featuring
Dr. Rosemarie Truglio

Tuesday, September 15, 2020
2:00PM - 3:00PM EDT



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.



[View as Webpage](#)

United Way fights for the health, education and financial stability of every person in every community. We have one life. To live better, we must LIVE UNITED®.