

A Business Model That Works

Small Business Development and Job Training that supports Kindergarten Readiness

Programs Achieving Quality (PAQ)© works at the grassroots level in low income neighborhoods, partnering with Early Childhood business owners to grow high quality, self-sustaining child care programs that prepare children for kindergarten. PAQ provides one-on-one consulting, professional development/job training for center directors and teachers. Through PAQ, United 4 Children (U4C) works with programs in a holistic manner building capacity in areas including classroom environment, classroom instruction, and business capacity.



Fine Motor skills help future writing

- Capacity building work with Early Childhood small business owners (Evaluating budgets, marketing, technology, Personnel Practices, etc.)
- Job training for classroom teachers (Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential and GED support (Stackable and Portable Certificates)
- Improving classroom environments to support kindergarten readiness

Small business owners, serving our most valuable asset: *Children* are underserved in North St. Louis. With limited resources from the state and serving low income families, business owners have to do the best they can to keep the doors open and employ teachers. This deficit affects economic development and neighborhood revitalization at its core. The lack of high quality classrooms for children in North St. Louis is staggering and drastically affects kindergarten readiness. In the following zip codes: 63106, 63107, 63112, 63113, 63115, and 63120 there are 100 programs with the capacity to serve 3,732 children! Out of 100 programs only 14 are accredited; meaning programs adhere to rigorous standards of quality. *“But there’s good news: we can help improve this so that businesses are sustained and children are equipped to succeed in school.”*

- Programs Achieving Quality currently serves over 625 children using a robust model that gets results. This is a holistic approach to sustaining early childhood businesses, offering job training opportunities to teachers, and improving classroom environments to support kindergarten readiness.
- 27 classroom teachers have completed our CDA Essentials training (120 hours of instruction over 24 weeks).
- Materials and equipment make marked improvement in the classroom environment.



Research shows that children who have the opportunity to explore with block play will do better in math!

How can you help?

We need you to take action NOW! This is a model that works in supporting small business owners in low income areas. This model includes job training, business development/sustainability, and kindergarten readiness for our most valuable asset: the children.



Making Children a Priority

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