When ALL children in EVANSTON have a STRONG start to KINDERGARTEN they will be on their way to a HEALTHY, PRODUCTIVE, SATISFYING LIFE.

Evanston Cradle to Career partners are committed to addressing the inequity that undermines too many of our community’s children, particularly children of color. District 65’s Black Student Achievement report found that when black students arrive at District 65 “kindergarten-ready,” by 3rd grade there is no achievement gap.

EC2C is committed to ensuring families have the information and supports they need for ALL our children to achieve their potential.

- **New Baby Visits**
  - In Development
  - Screen for baby and maternal health
  - Connect to needed services
  - Introduce *Talk, Read, Sing*

- **Coordinated Home Family Visiting**
  - Maximizing use of and ensuring quality of visiting resources
  - Streamlining access to services

- **Library-Based Screening**
  - In Development
  - Easy access to developmental screening
  - Early identification of special needs

- **Trauma-Informed Early Childhood Programs**
  - Teachers in 10 early childhood programs trained in understanding trauma
  - Counseling available for families experiencing trauma

- **Teacher Guide for Strong Start to Kindergarten**
  - All pre-K teachers understand expectations for a strong start to kindergarten

- **Teacher Coaching Initiative**
  - Coaches help pre-K teachers to develop needed skills to support ALL students
  - Develop curriculum for teachers

- **Pre-K/Kindergarten Teacher Summits**
  - Sharing expectations
  - Shared learning experiences

- **Smooth Transition to Kindergarten**
  - Observation across pre-K & kindergarten classrooms
  - Sharing child specific effective strategies

- **Welcome to Kindergarten**
  - Health care providers share *Talk, Read, Sing*
  - Parents receive activity ideas via text

- **Parent/Caregiver Activity Guide**
  - Parents have the information they need to build skills for a strong start to kindergarten
New Baby Visits (In Development):
Through our partners District 65, Family Focus and CNE, EC2C is working to partner with the Perinatal Family Support Center at Evanston Hospital to offer all families involved with the Center a new baby home visit within the first month of their child’s birth to support families and connect them to needed services, including ongoing housing support and basic needs and home family visiting where appropriate.

Coordinated Home Family Visiting:
Our community’s four home family visiting providers are coordinating their services through shared training, partnering for new baby visits, and understanding the unique strengths of each program to ensure parents are connected to the best program to meet their needs.

Library-Based Screening (In Development):
Evanston Public Library is working to provide developmental screening for children not enrolled in a center-based program to ensure that children with developmental delays are identified early and receive appropriate supports.

Talk, Read, Sing Initiative:
Evanston Public Library is providing periodic texts in both English and Spanish offering suggestions for parents to support early childhood development. This effort is partnered with health care providers sharing Talk, Read, Sing materials with parents at healthy child visits.

Trauma-Informed Early Childhood Programs:
EC2C has provided funds for training early childhood staff about the prevalence and impact of trauma on children and families. Additionally, funding is available to support crisis counseling for families experiencing trauma.

Teacher Guide for Strong Start to Kindergarten:
D65 and EC2C engaged kindergarten and pre-K providers to reach consensus on skills needed for a strong start to kindergarten. D65 then developed a guide for teachers outlining these skills for pre-K providers.

Parent Activity Guide:
EC2C Action Team developed a guide for parents outlining the skills needed for a strong start to kindergarten and offering activities to support the development of those skills. EC2C Advocates for Action and Student Advocates are helping to share these activities and distribute these guides.

Teacher Coaching Initiative:
Four nonprofit EC2C early childhood partners, chosen based on relevant data, are receiving coaching for their teachers to ensure a positive, culturally responsive and trauma-informed learning environment for ALL children.

Pre-K/Kindergarten Summit:
EC2C hosts annual summits among pre-K and kindergarten teachers to share best practices and to develop shared early learning strategies to provide a cohesive learning experience for our community’s children.

Smooth Transition to Kindergarten:
EC2C is working to develop stronger partnerships across pre-K and kindergarten teachers. This includes observation of each other’s classrooms and a process to share information from pre-K to kindergarten teachers about effective strategies with individual children to smooth the transition to kindergarten.