

United Way Bornlearning Academies Help Franklin County's Kids Succeed

Did you know that 50% of Kentucky's children are not ready for Kindergarten once they reach school age? And the percentage is even bigger in Franklin County at 53%. Unfortunately, 9 out of 10 kids who aren't ready for kindergarten never catch up with their peers and are more likely to end up dropping out of school before graduation.

The United Way Bornlearning Academies began as a way to empower parents to bring that percentage down. Children are born ready to learn about everything around them. According to the book, *Working with Young Children* by Judy Herr, "Studies show that there are "windows of opportunity", or specific span of time, for the normal development of certain types of skills. During these key times, appropriate stimulation is needed for the brain synapses to link easily and efficiently. After these key periods, chances for creating stable, long-lasting pathways in the brain tend to diminish. Learning will continue to occur for the remainder of the person's life. However, the skill mastery level may not be as high." Over 90% of brain development is from the womb to 5 yrs. old. Since teachers do not work with children until they are in preschool or even kindergarten, these windows of opportunity may be missed unless the parents are working on these specific areas of development at home, which are key to a child's future success in school and beyond.

Toyota Manufacturing has invested \$48,000 into four of the Bornlearning Academies and the other two Academies are funded by a grant from the Kentucky Governor's Office of Early Childhood.

The United Way Bornlearning Academy is a school-based Academy that consists of six, FREE, monthly workshops (that include dinner and childcare) that teaches busy, overwhelmed parents and caregivers how to turn everyday moments into learning opportunities. Parents are engaged in hands-on activities and discussion about what it means to be ready for kindergarten. These activities help children develop problem solving and planning skills, as well as memory. To learn more about United Way's Bornlearning Academies, visit www.bornlearning.org.

If you are a parent and would like to join one of these Bornlearning Academies, please contact one of the following host schools. It is suggested to attend workshops at the school your child will eventually attend so they will be familiar with it but you can attend at any location. For a schedule of workshops, visit www.unitedwayfranklincounty.org and click on the BLA schedule link. It is best to attend all six sessions, but you are welcome to attend the sessions at any point during the six-week period.

Bornlearning Academy locations:

Bridgeport Elementary School
Collins Lane Elementary School
Westridge Elementary School
Early Learning Village
Elkhorn Elementary/Rosenwald Center for Families and Children
Second Street Elementary School

2016-2017 WORKSHOP DATES BELOW:

BORN LEARNING ACADEMY - WORKSHOP DATES

The Born Learning Academy is a series of workshops designed to help families with children from birth through age five better prepare their children for school. Each monthly session is free, with dinner served and child-care provided. Participants discuss strategies that will help prepare children for school. Sessions are offered at various locations throughout Franklin County and are sponsored by Toyota, the Governor's Office of Early Childhood (Race to the Top), the United Way and other organizations.

Parents/Guardians: We suggest that you attend at the school in which you plan to enroll your child, because it will help you and your child get familiar with that school building. However, you are free to attend at another location if you prefer.

West Side Locations:

Bridgeport Elementary School

All sessions run from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

September 20	Workshop 1 - Series Overview
October 18	Workshop 2 - Building Relationships
November 15	Workshop 3 - Ready to Read! Building Your Child's Language Skills
December 13	Workshop 4 - Nutrition and Health
January 10	Workshop 5 - How Children Learn
February 14	Workshop 6 - Routines & Learning On The Go!

For more information contact: Barbara Mathis (502) 875-8425, Barbara.Mathis@franklin.kyschools.us

Collins Lane Elementary School

All sessions are on third Tuesday of the month, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

September 20	Workshop 1 - Series Overview (Parenting made fun)
October 18	Workshop 2 - Building Relationships
November 15	Workshop 3 - Ready To Read! Building Your Child's Language Skills
January 17	Workshop 4 - Nutrition and Health
February 21	Workshop 5 - How Children Learn
March 21	Workshop 6 - Routines and Learning on the Go

For more information contact: Pamela Tate (502) 875-8409, Pamela.tate@franklin.kyschools.us

Westridge Elementary School

All sessions are on third Tuesday of the month (excepting Dec.), from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

September 20	Workshop 1 - Series Overview
October 18	Workshop 2 - Building Relationships
November 15	Workshop 3 - Ready to Read! Building Your Child's Language Skills
January 17	Workshop 4 - Nutrition and Health
February 21	Workshop 5 - How Children Learn
March 21	Workshop 6 - Routines and Learning on the Go

For more information contact: Terri Spellman 875-8426, Terri.Spellman@franklin.kyschools.us

East Side Locations

Early Learning Village

All sessions are on third Thursday of the month, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

October 20	Workshop 1 - Series Overview
November 17	Workshop 2 - Building Relationships
December 15	Workshop 3 - Ready To Read! Building Your Child's Language Skills
January 19	Workshop 4 - Nutrition and Health
February 16	Workshop 5 - How Children Learn
March 16	Workshop 6 - Routines and Learning on the Go

For more information contact: Jill Payne, 502.352.2590, Jill.Payne@franklin.kyschools.us

Elkhorn Elementary/Rosenwald Center for Families and Children at Kentucky State University

The Rosenwald Center for Families and Children is located at 315 Maryland Ave.

All sessions run from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Please note: In case of inclement weather or unforeseen emergency we will conduct the cancelled workshop on the following Thursday.

October 20	Workshop 1 - Series Overview (at KSU-Rosenwald)
November 17	Workshop 2 - Building Relationships (at KSU-Rosenwald)
January 19	Workshop 3 - Ready To Read! Building Your Child's Language Skills (at KSU-Rosenwald)
February 16	Workshop 4 - Nutrition and Health (at Elkhorn Elementary)
March 9	Workshop 5 - How Children Learn (at Elkhorn Elementary)
April 20	Workshop 6 - Routines and Learning on the Go (at Elkhorn Elementary)

For more information, contact: Jade Welch, 502-597-6882 jade.welch@kysu.edu or Mandy Heacock, (502) 695-6713 amanda.heacock@franklin.kyschools.us

Other Locations – City School District

Frankfort Independent Schools

October 11	Workshop 1 - Series Overview 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at 959 Leestown Lane*
November 29	Workshop 2 - Building Relationships 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at 959 Leestown Lane
January 3	Workshop 3 - Building Language Skills 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at 959 Leestown Lane
February 21	Workshop 4 - Nutrition and Health 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at 959 Leestown Lane
March 21	Workshop 5 - How Children Learn 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at 506 W. Second St.**
April 4 th	Workshop 6 - Learning On the Go! 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at 506 W. Second St.

*959 Leestown Lane is the Preschool & Central Office Building

**506 W. Second St. is Second Street School

For more information contact: Sunny Hardin, 502.875.8658 sunny.hardin@frankfort.kyschools.us



bornlearning®

SOME FACTS ABOUT KENTUCKY'S CHILDREN:

1. According to the BRIGANCE Early Childhood Screens III standardized test, 50% of our children in Kentucky are not ready to enter kindergarten.
2. According to the Kellogg Foundation, 9 out of 10 unprepared kindergartners never catch up.
3. According to the Anne E. Casey Foundation, students not reading on grade level by 3rd grade are 4X more likely NOT to receive a High School diploma.

Chrissy Jones, Superintendent of Franklin County Public Schools: "Among children who are not prepared for kindergarten, 88% will never catch up to their peers who are. That is a staggering statistic. By taking an active role in your children's education even before they start school, you are giving them a better chance to be successful not only in school, but ultimately in life."

Superintendent of Frankfort Independent Schools, Dr. Houston Barber shared that 66% of Second Street students are considered impoverished and more than half of low-income students don't have children's books at home. He further shared that 71.5% of Frankfort Independent School 3rd graders were Novice or Apprentice in Reading in 2014-15. Many of these children end up dropping out of school and never earn a high school diploma.