DeKalb County Community Foundation
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Kindergarten Readiness Toolkit Grant Guidelines

Grant Program Purpose

The DeKalb County Community Foundation recognizes the importance of supporting young children and their families across one of the most challenging transitions in life; from early childhood to kindergarten. Early childhood experiences play a significant role in a child's development and the degree to which a child is ready for kindergarten.

Early learning and kindergarten educators in DeKalb County have identified kindergarten readiness toolkits as a positive way to engage young children and their families. By using the resources provided in the toolkits, parents and other family members can create fun learning experiences for their children and help prepare them for school. The toolkits include items and tools that families and children can share together.

Our teachers and families have learned that kindergarten readiness toolkits provide a wide variety of benefits including
- an easy way to explain what kindergarten is all about
- bridging pre-K and kindergarten programs
- explaining the differences between pre-K and kindergarten
- providing a curriculum guide that informs families what they should be doing with their children
- simple easy resources for parent and family engagement

Background and Overview

In 2016, Community Foundation board members and professionals working in early care and education (including early childhood and home care programs, pre-kindergarten and kindergarten educators) formed the Crib to Career- Kindergarten Readiness Working Group. With guidance from this group, the Community Foundation commissioned the DeKalb County Kindergarten Readiness Study and engaged early childhood educators and other professionals associated with early childhood education to assess the state of kindergarten readiness in DeKalb County. They have helped to create a Kindergarten Readiness Work Plan as part of a collective impact process. The evolving Work Plan identifies key issues and concerns and captures the goals and strategies stakeholders have identified to address some of these concerns.

If you are interested in being part of this initiative, or know of others who would like to participate, contact anita@dekalbccf.org.

Application Process

Kindergarten Readiness Toolkit applications are accepted on an ongoing basis or as published through the Community Foundation and the Regional Office of Education. Grant applications are reviewed by members of the Community Foundation Crib to Career Kindergarten Readiness Working Group with final approval from the Community Foundation Board of Directors. All requests must be submitted using the Kindergarten Readiness Toolkit application attached to this document and available on the Community Foundation website at https://dekalbccf.org/receive/grant-programs/ . Contact Anita Zurbrugg, anita@dekalbccf.org for more information.

Eligibility

Kindergarten Readiness Toolkit grants are intended to support kindergarten programs, both public and private, located in DeKalb County, Illinois. The grant is intended to benefit the *entire* kindergarten program of a public school district or of a private school. The grant applicant can be a kindergarten teacher or pre-K teacher or other significant professional on behalf of the entire kindergarten program.

General Requirements

- Grants are limited to fund toolkits up to the maximum of $10 per student.
- **Limit one grant application per school district or private school. Collaboration amongst all kindergarten teachers within a district is required in order to ensure equity and that all incoming kindergarten students of a public school district or private school program are served.**
- Grants are to be utilized within 12 months of their receipt and a grant report will be expected before the end of the school year.
- Grant requests may be used to support or enhance existing kindergarten readiness toolkit programs or to create new toolkit programs.
- Grant recipients are expected to collaborate closely with pre-K teachers and kindergarten teachers in designing and distributing the kindergarten readiness toolkits and in engaging families in using the toolkits.
- Grant funding is intended to be used for purchasing or creating supplies that make up kindergarten readiness toolkits. Grant funding is not available for general overhead, operations or personnel costs.
- Recipients of Kindergarten Readiness Toolkit grants are expected to share successes and challenges learned from creating a Kindergarten Readiness Toolkit program and accordingly may be contacted by the DeKalb County Community Foundation during or after the completion of the program as appropriate.

Grant Guidelines

Applicants are strongly encouraged to complete the following in planning for and compiling your grant request and in designing kindergarten readiness toolkits and the strategy for distribution:

- Secure appropriate engagement and approval from key administration personnel and colleagues before initiating a Kindergarten Readiness Toolkit program in your school district.
- Consider designing the toolkit as a curriculum guide that informs families how they can relate with their children to smooth the transition into kindergarten.
- Avoid providing duplicate information in toolkits that is widely available elsewhere in order to avoid overwhelming families.
- Consider the following suggestions to include in a toolkit:
    - Bag or box or container to hold toolkit items
    - Erasable white board with marker
    - Tools or card to introduce alphabet, numbers, colors, shapes, etc.
    - Crayons, scissors, drawing paper, play dough
    - Upper case and lower case alphabet magnets
    - Book(s)
    - Important: Parent guide explaining how to use the toolkits or bags
    - A short survey seeking feedback from families about the value of the toolkit (see example available on the Community Foundation grant application website)
    - **S**ee attached for an example used by Genoa Kingston School District.

Contact Anita Zurbrugg, Program Director, anita@dekalbccf.org for more information.

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GENOA-KINGSTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION
To enhance educational opportunities for students
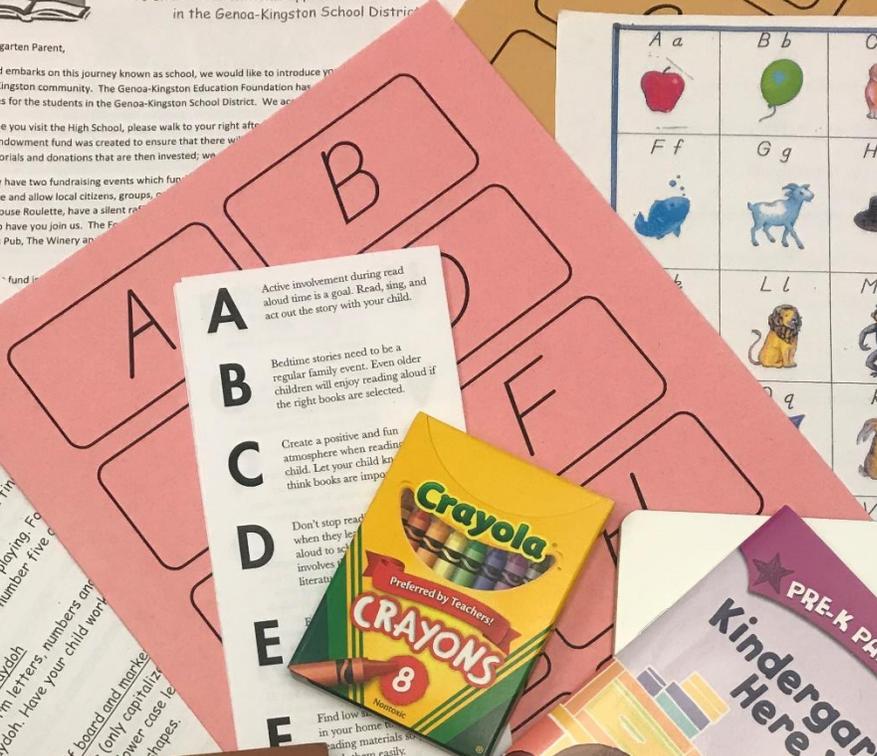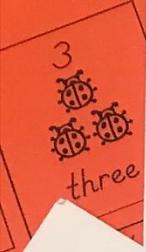in the Genoa-Kingston School District

Dear Kindergarten Parent,

As your child embarks on this journey known as school, we would like to introduce you to the Genoa-Kingston community. The Genoa-Kingston Education Foundation has... opportunities for the students in the Genoa-Kingston School District. We ac...

The next time you visit the High School, please walk to your right after... Wall. This endowment fund was created to ensure that there will... accept memorials and donations that are then invested; we...

We currently have two fundraising events which fun... race real mice and allow local citizens, groups, ... version of Mouse Roulette, have a silent raf... would love to have you join us. The F... t Five Points Pub, The Winery an...
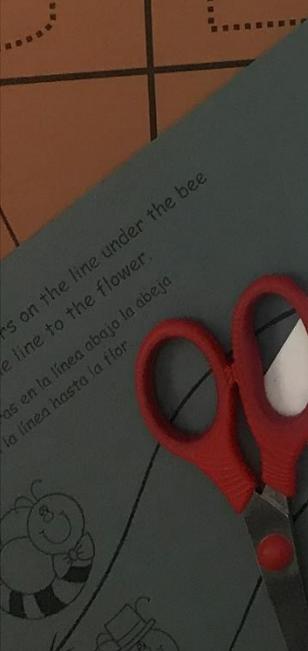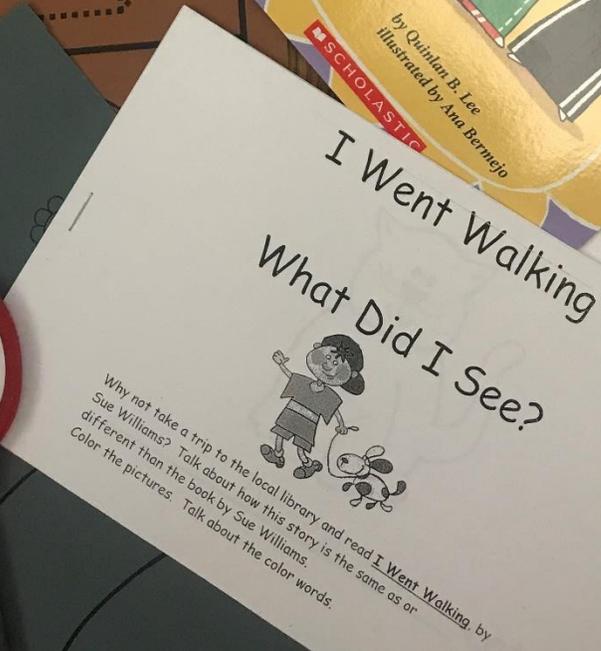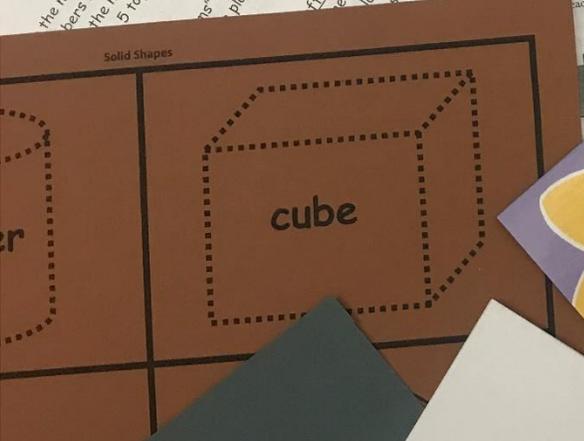

3
three

A B C D E F

Active involvement during read aloud time is a goal. Read, sing, and act out the story with your child.

Bedtime stories need to be a regular family event. Even older children will enjoy reading aloud if the right books are selected.

Create a positive and fun atmosphere when reading... child. Let your child kn... think books are impo...

Don't stop read... when they le... aloud to sc... involves... literat...

Find low... in your home... reading materials so... teach them easily.

Crayola
CRAYONS
Preferred by Teachers!
8
Nontoxic

PRE-K PALS
Kindergarten, Here We Come!
by Quinlan B. Lee
illustrated by Ana Bermejo
SCHOLASTIC

Solid Shapes
cube

I Went Walking
What Did I See?

Why not take a trip to the local library and read I Went Walking by Sue Williams? Talk about how this story is the same as or different than the book by Sue Williams. Color the pictures. Talk about the color words.

Writing D'Nealian Letters

...letter. We use the words capital...
...letters using the dots as your...
...wing the directional arrows.
...a name, use a capital letter for...
...lowercase letters for the rem...
...ce at a time is a...
...ds

Aa Bb Cc Dd
Ff Gg Hh Ii
Ll Mm Nn
q   Rr Ss
Ww Xx

...ers on the line under the bee
...e line to the flower
...as en la línea abajo la flor
...la línea hasta la flor

Number Card Activities
...the numbers around the room and have your child fin...
...bers in the right order.
...5 toys," and then pull out the number cards when your child work...

Playdoh
...s" and form letters, numbers an...
...playdoh. Have your child...
...ff board and marke...
...t (only capitaliz...
...lower case le...

DryErase
Made in U.S.A. Non-Toxic
Play-Doh