



Old approaches to visioning for young children and families won't work for the year 2020; we need 20/20 foresight and a new way to think about planning for early childhood in the future.

Dr. Sharon Lynn Kagan  
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 Teachers College, Columbia University and Professor Adjunct, Yale University's  
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*Keynote speaker, Ready At Five School Readiness Symposium  
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## vision in action Ready At Five's 2010 achievements

### what is Ready At Five?

- Ready At Five, an affiliate of the statewide non-profit Maryland Business Roundtable for Education, is dedicated to elevating school readiness for all Maryland children.
- Ready At Five invests in what works: innovative programs that build capabilities and collaboration among parents, early educators, Pre-K and kindergarten teachers, and administrators.
- Ready At Five brings together Maryland's key decision-makers, educators, and community members to raise awareness and spark new initiatives that improve early care and education.
- Ready At Five has a full-time staff of three – Executive Director, Program & Training Director, and Executive Assistant – and a support team of consultants and specialists for particular projects.
- Ready At Five continues to raise and expend funds for important efforts for Maryland's children, even in these difficult economic times.

### what Ready At Five accomplished in 2010

**More children are ready for school.** In 2010, 78% of Maryland kindergartners were assessed by the State as fully ready for school – 5 percentage points more than 2009 and a 29-point increase from School Year 2001-2002. Ready At Five played a key role in this improvement through four major areas of action:

#### Analyzing and sharing Maryland school readiness data and national research

- Ready At Five produced *Getting Ready 2010*, a comprehensive analysis of the Maryland Model for School Readiness (MMSR) data for kindergartners in School Year 2009-2010. Distributed annually statewide in print (13,000 copies), online, and in popular face-to-face presentations, *Getting Ready* influenced actions and policy and funding decisions affecting young children and families throughout Maryland.
- Ready At Five's much-anticipated School Readiness Symposia featured national speakers bringing cutting-edge research to inform Maryland's early care and education community:
  - Prominent education writer Paul Tough reached more than 155 educators, administrators, and policymakers with his message about the impact of early childhood interventions on life outcomes. Howard County participants began a book club to continue the conversation locally.
  - Oscar Barbarin, Ph.D., led a series of Discussion Forums enabling 22 participants from select jurisdictions to find ways to strategically meet the challenges facing young African-American boys.
  - Dr. Sharon Lynn Kagan's "20/20 Vision for Early Care and Education in 2020," based on her national and international expertise, challenged more than 250 attendees to act to improve Maryland's early childhood education system.

## executive leadership committee

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## the committee proudly welcomes three new members:

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## Creating and spreading innovative practices and resources

- Ready At Five developed Vocabulary Improvement and Oral Language Enrichment through Stories (VIOLETS), a ground-breaking literacy curriculum in support of young English Language Learners and children with low language skills. VIOLETS uses “read alouds” of 12 popular children’s books to introduce and reinforce key vocabulary words.
  - Ready At Five piloted VIOLETS at 10 Judy Center partner sites in Frederick and Howard Counties. We trained 12 Pre-K teachers, and field-tested VIOLETS in 12 Pre-K classrooms in Howard County (results, as measured by a University of Houston evaluator, were highly successful). We also trained 28 Baltimore County child care practitioners in using VIOLETS. Howard County Public Schools Pre-K classrooms are currently implementing the VIOLETS curriculum.
- Ready At Five’s Institutes for Early Educators provided high-quality professional development to 111 Head Start teachers and child care providers in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. Topics included incorporating play and the arts into the classroom, supporting children’s social and personal development, and aligning classroom curriculum with the state MMSR school readiness standards.
- Ready At Five trained 175 child care providers, Pre-K and kindergarten teachers, librarians, and community members in our highly-successful Learning Party curricula, a series of parent/child workshops designed to help parents to be their children’s First Teacher.

## Raising public awareness and engaging constituents

- Ready At Five expanded the growing School Readiness Business Leaders Network by convening two Business Breakfasts for large and small business leaders in southern and central Maryland. Our message of early childhood education as a high-yield investment in Maryland’s future workforce and economy reached more than 50 members of the business community, who responded to Ready At Five’s call to action.
- The inaugural issue of Ready At Five’s eNewsletter, spotlighting Maryland’s progress in building a comprehensive early care and education system, reached more than 1,500 Marylanders.

## Collaborating with all stakeholders

- Ready At Five supported the growth of high-quality early childhood programs by offering professional development that meets the needs of Maryland’s diverse child care community.
- Ready At Five worked with Maryland foundations, jurisdictions, and local governing bodies to focus and strengthen their early childhood investments.

## looking to 2011

Ready At Five enters 2011 with exciting new and continuing initiatives:

- Implementing the “20/20” recommendations developed in collaboration with Dr. Sharon Lynn Kagan and key Maryland stakeholders.
- Expanding VIOLETS to additional Pre-K and child care programs throughout Maryland.
- Moving forward with strategies on how to support young African-American boys to close the achievement gap.
- Upgrading the Ready At Five website to expand our Internet presence and our capacity to gather and distribute information online.
- Disseminating eNewsletters on a quarterly basis to reach more stakeholders more frequently.
- Mobilizing large and small business leaders, through business breakfasts, to use their communications outlets and influence in support of early care and education.
- Supporting the implementation of the Maryland Early Childhood Advisory Council’s Three-Year Action Plan.
- Participating on the Head Start Collaboration and Judy Center Advisory Board, and on the Baltimore City Head Start Board.

## our funders make it possible

Ready At Five’s generous funders and sponsors make all of our accomplishments possible. They include: The Allegis Group; Baltimore Community Foundation; Barbara Bush Family Literacy Foundation – Maryland Initiative; Celebree Learning Centers; Corporate Office Properties Trust; Howard County Local Children’s Board; M&T Bank; Maryland State Department of Education; Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Northrop Grumman; PNC Bank; Sabre Systems, Inc.; Teaching Strategies; The Wright Family Foundation; T. Rowe Price; and individual contributors.

Annual budget - \$620,000

## Ready At Five 2010 revenue (as of 11/24/10)

