



A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER!

2020 will be a year we will always remember. Due to the Covid-19 Global Pandemic, the world as we knew it changed. In early March, as schools and businesses closed and the world stayed home, we all had to find new ways to learn and work safely. Helping children, families and educators stay connected, feel secure and continue with the very important work of learning has always been our mission - but in 2020 it became even more critical.

Family and Community Engagement

Ready At Five has always believed that parents are their children's first teachers and this became even more true in 2020.

- **We immediately began posting video clips** on social media and our website that were submitted by friends and partners young and old, focusing on the different domains of learning. We had children reading stories to their pets, siblings demonstrating gymnastics, and many other parents and colleagues sharing their talents. We all joined together to help each other stay connected and enriched.
- **A partnership with the Fred Rogers Center** allowed us to offer a series of webinars featuring past School Readiness Symposium keynote speakers, Drs. Junlei Li and Dana Winters. These were well received and focused on helping caregivers and children make sense of the concerns brought on by the pandemic through the wisdom of Fred Rogers.
- **Rob Levit, a past School Readiness Symposium presenter hosted several webinars for us** throughout the year focusing on mental health and self-care. These were especially pertinent to our early childhood educators and childcare providers as well as families who suddenly found themselves working and teaching their children at home.
- **Ready At Five's Learning Party Educator Brigid Cook hosted several Facebook Live and Zoom Learning Sessions** along with her children that focused on Math, Science, Literacy and Social Emotional topics.
- **Giant Giving Tag Program.** We were thrilled to have been chosen to participate in the Giant Food Community Bag Program where we were able to raise funds all year long.
- We celebrated the **Month of the Young Child** with generous giveaways from our friends at Kaplan Early Learning Company.

"Ready At Five's virtual School Readiness Symposium was very interesting and engaging. The keynote speaker had a passion for making a difference in the lives of children. He successfully aroused the interest of the audience to make learning fun and entertaining in the classroom. I learned how to relate learning to situations that are relevant to the child and to show care and compassion to each child so that they will want to learn in a virtual setting."

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY



Professional Learning and Development

- **Train the Trainer in February.** We held a training for our Media Literacy Learning Party. Three counties partnered with us on this pilot project.
- **Our first virtual School Readiness Symposium was held in December.** We had over 250 people join us for “How Cultural Competency Creates Transformative Learning Experiences” with Alvin Irby, MS, MPA, Founder and Chief Reading Inspirer at Barbershop Books. His keynote, *The Benefits of Using Play and Humor in Early Childhood Settings: How Cultural Competency Creates Transformative Learning Experiences* was thought provoking and well received.

Workshops included:

- *How Parents, Caregivers and Providers Can Support Early Childhood Development Through Mindful Awareness Play*
Kim Cosgrove, LCSW-C
- *Self-Care: Strategies for Turning from Stress to Resilience*
Rob Levit
- *Culturally Responsive Family Engagement: Extending a Hand to Parents and a Mirror to Children*
Heather Tomlinson, PhD
- *The Benefits of Using Play and Humor in Early Childhood Settings*
Alvin Irby, MS, MPA

Partnerships

- **Working with Prince George’s County Public Schools gave us an opportunity to reach new parents and families with young children.** This collaboration allowed us to provide school readiness resources to forty-five community schools for distribution to their families – Including: 2,000 PreK Scholastic Tote Bags; 3,700 Kindergarten Round-Up Packs; and 2,000 New Parent Boxes. These first teachers of Maryland’s children received Parents Matter, School Readiness Activity Cards, Domains of Learning Cards and a special gift for newborns.
- **Ready At Five was one of seventeen non-profits chosen to participate in T. Rowe Price Foundation’s 3rd Annual Design Fest.** In early March, we worked with a designated team of designers to brainstorm ideas, and participate in workshops focused on Human-Centered Design, Storytelling for Businesses and Elevating Social Media Strategies. We came away with ideas and suggestions for updating our publications and a stronger understanding of the impact of design.

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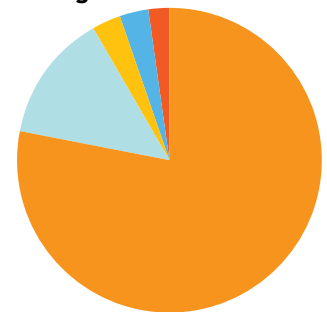
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