

Striving for High-Quality Early Learning



The Children's Trust
Thrive
by **5**

The Children's Trust

In Partnership With



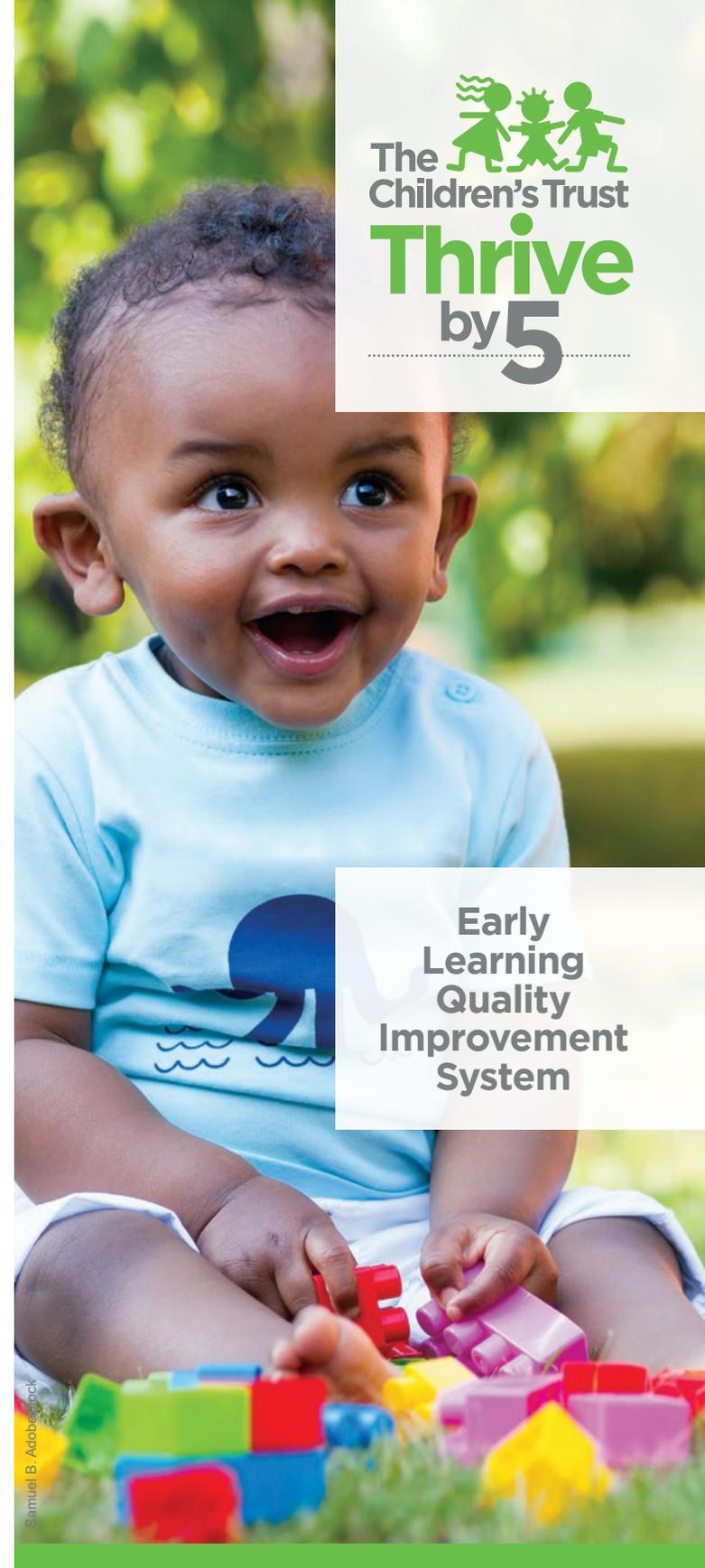
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United Way of Miami-Dade



Early Learning
Quality
Improvement
System



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High-quality early learning experiences benefit all children's school readiness and later life success.

The greatest impact is seen with less advantaged children, resulting in a narrowing of the readiness gap at kindergarten entry. Miami was among the first communities in the nation to implement an early learning quality improvement system (QIS) and we continue to help prepare children for kindergarten, which includes developing basic skills in literacy, math and science, as well as social and emotional health and behavior.

Today, we know we need to go further. Our new model using intensive review of data and multiple evaluations tells us that programs need financial assistance to afford the high cost of quality care. Low school-readiness payments, under enrollment due to an oversaturated child care market and parents not demanding higher-quality programs act as major barriers in increasing the quality of care. Miami's new early learning quality improvement system aims to overcome these barriers and level the playing field in low-income neighborhoods by providing strategic financial investments to incentivize programs to improve and sustain their delivery of high-quality early learning services.

How it Works

Participating early learning programs and teachers have access to opportunities to improve and sustain high-quality child care. Available supports are:

High-Quality Performance Incentives Programs meeting a threshold defined by CLASS assessments measuring teacher-child interactions will receive a payment differential on all children ages birth through 5 years old attending their program. Differential payments are tiered, from 3 to 15 percent, so that programs are rewarded when reaching higher levels of quality.

Thrive by 5 Child Scholarships Awarded to parents who do not qualify for a School Readiness subsidy but still cannot afford the high cost of quality child care. While School Readiness eligibility covers families with incomes up to 150 percent of the federal poverty level, TB5 Scholarships cover families with incomes up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level. Parents can use the scholarships to enroll children in high-quality programs, based on CLASS assessments, and those programs would benefit from increasing enrollment.

Early Learning Career Center and Thrive by 5 Teacher Scholarships (www.elcareercenter.org) Directors and teaching staff, regardless of participation in the QIS, will have access to career advising services and educational scholarships to

further their education and professional development. Scholarships may be used for child care credentials, document translation and professional development opportunities. There are a wide range of bilingual opportunities available including college credit-earning courses and continuing education unit (CEU) bearing trainings.

WAGE\$ Salary Supplements (www.wages-fl.org) Eligible teachers, regardless of participation in the QIS, have access to semiannual wage supplements issued through The Child Care WAGE\$® FLORIDA Project. They are intended to increase the education of the early childhood workforce and reduce staff turnover. Annual wage supplements range from \$200 to \$3,000, depending on level of education qualifications.

Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Teachers will be supported by mental health professionals to build capacity around fostering healthy social-emotional development and addressing challenging behaviors. Additional services will be available for those children and families requiring further support.

Child Assessments Additional support is provided for teachers who implement ongoing child assessments that better individualize instruction based on development. These assessments provide a means by which to track child development and assess the impact of their education.



Licensed child care programs that meet all of the following criteria qualify to participate; those meeting some criteria may qualify, depending on available resources:

1. Serve 30 percent or more young children (under age 6) receiving a school readiness subsidy
2. Located in a low-income neighborhood
3. Serve infants and toddlers

