



KITE is a collaborative made up of community partners who are brought together through our common commitment to help children and families succeed. From early care providers and educators to first responders, pediatricians, social services to businesses and families, we recognize that we can accomplish more by working **collaboratively**. We look forward to being your partner in improving early childhood and education for all families in Enfield.



2023-2028

Enfield Early Childhood Community Plan



What RESULT do we want for Enfield's children and families?

Enfield children are:

- Healthy, safe and happy;
- Living in thriving families with strong ties to their neighbors and to the broader community; and
- Gain the skills they need to succeed both in school and life.

2012 Enfield developed a community plan for all children birth through age eight.

The comprehensive community plan is a road map for assessing and changing policies and practices, and provides community-wide accountability for results. It addresses the multiple domains of an early care and education system including: early care; social, emotional, behavioral and physical health; education (pre-K through Grade 3); and family engagement and support – all through the lens of equity.

Enfield updated the community plan. **2016**

2023

PLAN INPUT

98

PARENTS completed surveys





COMMUNITY MEMBERS participated in focus groups

29

KITE MEMBERS provided feedback at Annual Meeting





COLLECTIVE HOURS to complete

60

1500

Enfield has made great progress in implementing our plan since 2016.

Accomplishments include:

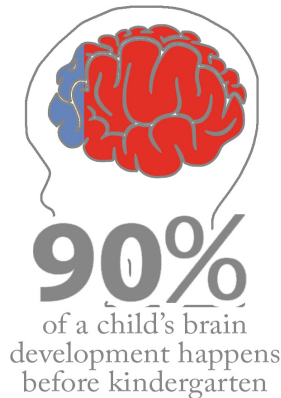
- ✓ Established the **Stowe Early Learning Center** as a hub for early care and education, including the creation of a Play Lab and a Family-Educator Organization.
- ✓ Implemented **Enfield Plays On** to promote the use of play for learning and development – including supporting play at home, in the community, and in early childhood education programs.
- ✓ In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, launched **One Community** to support families experiencing unemployment and food insecurity, and to showcase Enfield community members caring for one another and coming together to help their neighbors through the pandemic.
- ✓ Formed a **2Gen Steering Committee** to focus on the whole family, with co-ownership from the North Central Connecticut Chamber of Commerce.



16% *Quality early education for at-risk children can produce an annual rate of return as high as 16% – higher than most stock portfolios. It should be at the top of any state’s economic development agenda.*

Critical for Economic Development

These investments are also good for our economy. Investments in early care and education can return as much as \$17 to society for every dollar invested. Harvard’s Center for the Developing Child found that “healthy development in the early years (particularly birth to three) provides the building blocks for educational achievement, economic productivity, responsible citizenship, lifelong health, strong communities, and successful parenting of the next generation.” Two-thirds of children younger than six have all available parents in the labor force meaning that children’s early education programs are fundamental to parents’ incomes.



Overall Approach: Building on Progress, Responding to Our Changed World

Our overall approach for the Plan is as follows:

- A 5-year time frame with short-term objectives.
- Strategies that address multiple results.
- Building on success.
- Equity woven throughout the Plan.
- **KITE** as catalyst and convener.

5 Year Goals		Healthy Children	Thriving Families	School & Life Success
1	Infuse Play in the daily lives of young children	●	●	●
	 The Play Lab has a permanent location.			
2	Re-build family, school, and neighbor connections	●	●	●
	 Promote family connections in existing activities and programs			
3	Support the mental health needs of families, especially as we emerge from the stress and challenges of the pandemic	●	●	
	 Expand Circle of Security to reduce stress and improve parent-child relationship			
4	Improve translation and interpretation for non-English speaking families		●	●
	 Promote parent leadership in language equity			
5	Support the expansion of quality, affordable early childhood education (ECE)		●	●
	 Engage parents to expand affordable ECE			