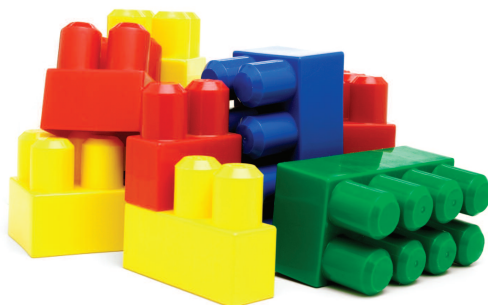


United Way's Thrive by Five focuses on giving children a good start in life.

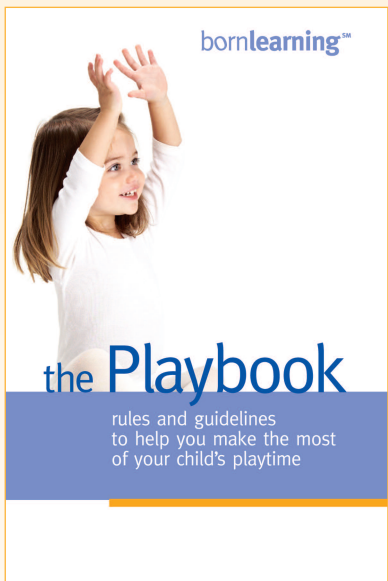


Mt. Kisco Child Care Center

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.
LIVE UNITED



Research shows that the path to achievement begins as soon as a baby is born. The goal of **Thrive by Five** is to help young children, especially at-risk kids, arrive at school ready to learn and achieve. How parents and caretakers interact with a young child in those first crucial years will help determine if he is on par with his peers and prepared to learn when he begins school. >>



United Way's Born Learning reminds parents, caregivers and grandparents that everyday moments can be learning opportunities for babies and toddlers.

Colorful, fun, user-friendly Born Learning materials and ads give parents and caregivers helpful hints on how to turn daily activities like cooking, shopping and laundry into learning moments. Materials are distributed through childcare providers throughout Westchester and Putnam, as well as libraries, businesses, hospitals, and pediatricians' offices.

What better way to prevent future problems? If a young child arrives at school with a good vocabulary, and has been exposed to colors, shapes, letters and numbers, she is more likely to start confidently and succeed. Achievement in school means the child is less likely to get in trouble and drop out. Substance abuse and incarceration rates drop. Everyone wins.

United Way and its partners make sure that prospective and new parents are prepared to give their babies a good start with **at-home visits**. **Parents receive information on prenatal care, good nutrition and development milestones, as well as Born Learning materials.**

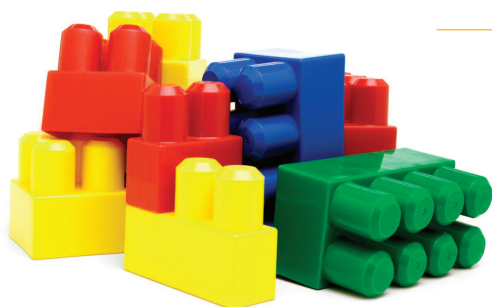
A child does far better in school if he or she has a solid grasp of English. Thrive by Five focuses on the families of preschool children, offering families help with their child's **literacy readiness** as well as **social and emotional skills**. **Parents are also helped with English as a second language classes.**

Thrive by Five helps families of children with emotional and developmental issues with **early intervention** and good **parental supports**. Parents can learn how to better deal with their children's issues, make sure they are getting the help they need, and count on a network of other parents.

Parent involvement is the keystone of a child's success in school.

Work, cultural differences, not valuing school or the importance of involvement can keep a parent from participating in their child's school life. Thrive by Five teaches and encourages parents to help their children achieve, and to give them the support they need at home to do their best at school.

One of the difficulties in tracking progress across our counties is the variety of ways that **children's development is measured**. Thrive by Five partners will all use one standard tool: "Ages & Stages," which measures a child's development and readiness for school.



- Thrive by Five Partners**
 Child Care Council of Westchester
 Family Services of Westchester
 Hendrick Hudson Free Library
 The Guidance Center
 Westchester Children's Association