

For every
dollar
invested
in early
childhood
education,
we see a
return of
\$4 - \$9 in
savings.

SUCCESS BY 6

In the first few years of life, brains grow the fastest and are most capable of change, so these years set the stage for future learning. That's why our early childhood education initiatives, known collectively as the "Success By 6" program, work to ensure that Austin's youngest residents start out life on an even playing field.

We work with education organizations and community stakeholders to create opportunities for low-income infants, toddlers and young children to receive high-quality education before they even enter Kindergarten. We also provide opportunities for their parents to receive the skills they need to better prepare their children for success in school and beyond.

Why invest in young children?

As Austin's population continues to grow, too many of our children are entering school without the skills they need to learn and succeed.

Children who start school behind tend to stay behind. They need more remedial education services, are more likely to drop out of school, earn lower wages as adults and are more likely to be incarcerated. This represents a financial loss to the community and a loss of human potential.

Our approach

UWATX's Success By 6 program gives working poor families access to high-quality early care and education, parent education services and mental healthcare. Every Success By 6 strategy is proven effective through extensive research and real-world experience.



United Way for Greater Austin

Highlights of Key Initiatives

SCHOOL READINESS ACTION PLAN

For the past seven years, UWATX has led a coalition of early childhood advocates, experts, school districts, parents, service providers and business leaders to put together an ambitious School Readiness Action Plan (SRAP) for Austin/Travis County, aimed at changing the landscape of care for our youngest community members. This plan is a strategic effort to invest in the future of our community, with the goal of increasing the number of school-ready children to 70 percent by 2018.

The SRAP has won state and national awards, and has catalyzed system level changes in service delivery. The result: more children and families are getting effective services—and more children are entering school ready to succeed.

We recently completed phase one of the plan from 2012 through 2015, and are using the data collected during this time to refocus our work for the upcoming three years.

PLAY TO LEARN

High-quality childcare in Austin can cost up to \$18,300 a year. To support children who are not enrolled in childcare, UWATX launched Play To Learn in 2012 to coach parents on fostering school readiness at home. Parents and their children attend classes at accessible neighborhood locations, such as libraries, and learn together from a qualified early learning coach.

Families enrolled in Play To Learn receive computer tablets pre-loaded with age-appropriate and educational apps for children, as well as bookmarked websites and parenting videos to supplement classroom instruction. UWATX will serve approximately 300 families in 2015, and many more will benefit from the valuable research findings the program provides.

QUALITY EARLY EDUCATION CENTERS

Since 2005, UWATX has worked with local childcare centers with large low-income populations and other service providers to increase the quality of childcare. Success By 6 incorporates a variety of strategies to address this need:

- **Literacy support:** Success By 6 coaches offer play-based lessons to support early math and language development
- **Parent education:** Helping parents get the skills they need to best support their child's development
- **Social emotional learning:** Funding licensed professionals to provide on-site mentoring and counseling for children, teachers and other educators
- **High-quality resources:** Leveraging in-kind support to provide resources, technology support and more
- **Teacher development:** Support for continuing education and professional development for childcare providers
- **Director mentoring:** Funding a mentorship program for directors to grow their leadership skills
- **Data analysis and coordination:** Collecting data through regular classroom observations and children's assessments to determine needs and coordinate efforts

We currently work with 13 centers serving 700 to 1,000 low-income children all over Austin. Thanks to this work, the percent of centers serving low-income communities who meet state or national standards has increased by nearly 50 percent.

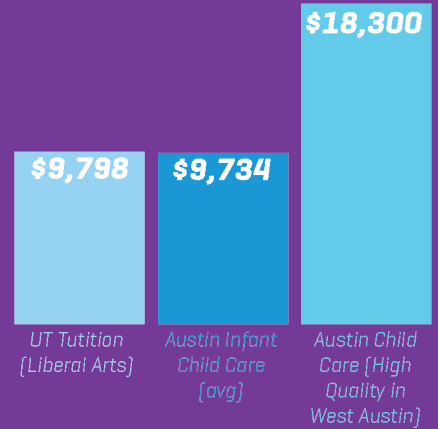
Learn more at uwatx.org/SuccessBy6



United Way for Greater Austin

Child care & education in

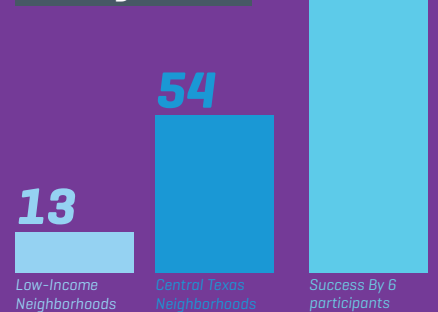
Austin are expensive



Too many of our children

aren't ready for

Kindergarten



Results from our literacy

coaching project: In just 7

months, participating

children gained 10 more

months of

language

development

than expected.

