

The mission

of **First 5 Lex** is to create a collaborative community to support the whole child and the family, from quality prenatal care through early childhood, resulting in a foundation for lifelong learning.

Parent and caregiver interactions with children from birth to 5 are the key to future success. What we need to do to prepare our children for school is actually simple and fun: **READ, TALK and PLAY!**



First 5 Lex - Read, Talk and Play is designed to give families and caregivers access to information about early learning and connect them to fun, stimulating, age-appropriate activities and experiences that will support their young child's development and learning.

First 5 Lex - Read, Talk and Play from Cradle to Kindergarten was developed by Fayette County Public Schools in partnership with early childhood professionals from across our community, in response to concerns about school readiness.



First 5 Lex

Read, Talk and Play from Cradle to Kindergarten



Our community partners include:



First 5 Lex Community Initiatives



Provide a book for 2-week old babies' check-ups through Reach Out and Read participating clinics.

The book "I Love You Like Sunshine" is designed for parents to read to their babies, but it is also filled with practical advice and tips based on brain development.

Provide neighborhood Read to Me Libraries

Many children live in homes and neighborhoods where books are not available. In an effort to reach families with children birth to age 5, Read to Me Libraries have been placed in health clinics, community centers and other locations where families may spend time waiting.



Outreach to families through WIC offices, Health First Bluegrass and UK Clinics

Information about early brain development and the importance of parent/child interaction is shared through: slides on televisions in waiting rooms, wall posters in exam rooms, and activity cards given to parents with suggested games to play, conversations to have, books to read, and songs to sing with their children.

Provide an activity app for families

The First 5 Lex app is available on iPhone and Android devices for free. The app suggests daily activities to do with your children that support school readiness in a variety of areas.



Provide quality resources for early childhood professionals

Professional learning includes the FCPS Early Childhood Community Summit, which provides free training for early childhood teachers and childcare providers in the Lexington community. Additionally, First 5 Lex provides outreach training for childcare centers in the East End and other specific zip codes, partners with the Child Care Council Spring Institute, and provides Lunch & Learn opportunities.

Provide quality resources to help strengthen families

Several learning opportunities are available to empower families and increase their knowledge and understanding of early childhood development. Examples include the United Way Born Learning Academy, the FCPS Family University series, and the district's Learning Guides for Families, available in multiple languages for preschool through fifth grade.



Communication Campaign

From the First 5 Lex social media presence to recent partnerships with area media outlets, the READ, TALK and PLAY message is being shared across our community.



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www.First5Lex.com