Children are born learning.

From the time of conception to the first day of Kindergarten, development proceeds at a pace exceeding that of any stage of life. ...development in the early years is both highly robust and highly vulnerable.

Shonkoff and Phillips, Neurons to Neighborhoods: The Science of Early Child Development

Impact: Preparing every child to enter kindergarten ready to succeed

United Way’s Success By 6® is a school readiness initiative that helps children, ages birth-6 in Winnebago and Ogle counties, gain the necessary academic and social skills needed to enter school ready to learn.

Focus

United Way’s Success By 6® school readiness initiative focuses on increasing family engagement and developing pre-literacy skills in young children through three goals:

• reduce barriers that negatively impact the school readiness of children;
• ensure quality early learning experiences so children ages birth-6 will learn, grow, and enter kindergarten ready to succeed;
• increase public awareness and understanding of early brain development and readiness to learn.

Strategies

A volunteer advisory council of community-based business leaders, educators, and early childhood advocates, lead these components of the school readiness initiative:

• Born Learning Trail: Guides families through a series of fun outdoor games that build school readiness skills in young children and offers tips to use at home.
• School Readiness Calendars: Lists family-oriented activities and basic resources needed for pre-k students to enter kindergarten ready to learn.
• Tiny Turners Reading Program: Promotes family engagement and literacy development, and builds a home library for children ages birth-3 through professional home visits.
• Page Turner Reading Program: Supports teachers by helping develop essential literacy skills in pre-k students and encourages family engagement through a home reading library.

The number of Tiny Turners Reading Program parents reading to their children five or more times per week increased by 21%.

81 percent of School Readiness Calendar parents surveyed reported an increase in kindergarten readiness knowledge.

90 percent of 4-year old students in Page Turner Reading Program can predict what will happen next by using pictures and content for guides.
A strong foundation not only prepares children to start and succeed in school, it gives them something solid to stand on as they pursue their dreams.

A child's early years are a unique period of growth for critical learning skills, which build a solid foundation for successful future learning. Every dollar we invest in high-quality early childhood education returns to our community more than $7 later on – by boosting graduation rates, reducing teen pregnancy, even reducing violent crime. Highschope Perry Preschool Study 2005

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**Invest in our community**
All partners of Success By 6® are recognized in various ways throughout the school year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Recognition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gold Level</strong></td>
<td>$5,000 &amp; above</td>
<td>- Recognition in books distributed monthly to over 4,000 children</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>- Listed in School Readiness Calendar distributed to over 5,000 families</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Recognized as an early childhood partner at United Way events</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>- Acknowledgment on United Way website and in annual report</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Silver Level</strong></td>
<td>$2,500</td>
<td>- Listed in School Readiness Calendar distributed to over 5,000 families</td>
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<td>- Acknowledgment on United Way website and in annual report</td>
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<td><strong>Bronze Level</strong></td>
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<td>- Acknowledgment on United Way website and in annual report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Partnership Level</strong></td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>- Acknowledgment on United Way website and in annual report</td>
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</tbody>
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**Book Titles 2016-2017**

### October
- You Are Like an Acorn

### November
- Mouse's First Day of School
- The Mitten

### December
- If You Give a Pig a Pancake

### January
- Lola Loves Stories
- Duck on a Bike
- Giraffes Can't Dance
- Click, Clack, Moo Cows That Type

### February
- October
- You Are Like an Acorn

### March
- December
- The Mitten
- May
- I Want a Kiss
- Brush, Brush, Brush

### April
- March
- Duck on a Bike
- April
- Giraffes Can't Dance

### May
- May
- I Want a Kiss
- Brush, Brush, Brush

### June
- May
- I Want a Kiss
- Brush, Brush, Brush

### July
- June
- I Want a Kiss
- Brush, Brush, Brush

### August
- June
- I Want a Kiss
- Brush, Brush, Brush

### September
- Where is the Green Sheep?

### October
- Where is the Green Sheep?

### November
- Clifford the Big Red Dog
- Big and Little

### December
- January
- Big and Little
- July
- Love is You and Me
SUCCESS BY 6® PARTNERS

United Way of Rock River Valley thanks the following partners and sponsors for embracing our Early Childhood Education initiative to improve community conditions. Together with these organizations, United Way is creating opportunities to ensure every child succeeds in kindergarten and reads proficiently at grade-level.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority
Pi Gamma Omega Chapter
Alpine Bank
Associated Bank
Blackhawk Learning Connection
BMO Harris Bank
Circles of Learning
City of Rockford Head Start
Community Foundation of Northern Illinois
Diocese of Rockford
Dollar General Literacy Foundation
Easter Seals Metropolitan Chicago (Rockford Region)
Exelon
FIELD
Goodwill Industries of Northern Illinois
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John Morrissey Accountants
La Voz Latina

Mount Morris Kiwanis Club
Northwest Bank of Rockford
Northwestern Illinois Building & Construction Trades Council
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Rockford IceHogs
Rockford School District #205
Rockford United Labor
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United Way of Rock River Valley
Women’s Leadership Council
Valley Expo & Displays
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