



# PARTNERS ADVANCING CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



## SETTING THE PACE FOR OUR CHILDREN'S SUCCESS

The Partners Advancing Childhood Education (PACE) model is based on Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Georgia (SPARK), a previous school readiness initiative funded through the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Through SPARK, United Way successfully developed highly focused partnerships and strategies to help children in DeKalb and Gwinnett counties improve their school readiness skills. These efforts resulted:

- Increased parent participation and leadership in early education and schools.
- Increased parental awareness of child development stages.
- Improved parenting practices.
- Creation of School Readiness Councils and KinderCamps to generate dialogue between childcare providers and elementary schools to familiarize children and families with the transition to Kindergarten.



### How the PACE Program Works

By implementing a parent engagement and school transition program model, coordinating services and advocating for policy and system, this program addresses the early learning needs of our young children.

PACE focuses on school readiness efforts for children birth five year of age by going into targeted areas of Atlanta and drawing on the strengths of community-based organizations including schools, family and social services agencies that serve as Community Hubs

Community Hub Coordinators and Parent Educators work with parents, community leaders, schools, early education centers and other partners to implement the PACE approach. Each Hub is embedded within a high-needs community and serves children birth to five years of age and received funding for three years.



**United Way of  
Greater Atlanta**

[www.settingthepace.org](http://www.settingthepace.org)

The PACE approach is built around three core strategies, including:



**Home visitations:** Using the Parents as Teachers (PAT) home visitation model, parents receive training to increase their knowledge of child development, enhance their parenting skills, link them with resources and social networks and conduct health and developmental screenings of their children.

**School Transition:** PACE’s school transition services ensure that children and families have a smooth transition into pre-K and the public school system. The Parents as Teachers (PAT) educators are involved in the process by developing individual transition plans for each child. School transition teams at each of the targeted schools help implement the plan and activities by parents, children, early learning programs and the community. Other services include KinderCamps for incoming pre-K and Kindergarten students, school readiness screenings and informational sessions offering tips and tools for parents.

**Family leadership:** This component of the program is based on the premise that outcomes for children, families and community are more likely to occur when parents are involved in planning and decision making. Family leadership strategies include encouraging parents to advocate on behalf of their children, urging them to take on leadership roles at school and in the community, asking them to assist with HUB activities and providing the opportunity for them to attend conferences and trainings.

“ PACE’s focus on the interaction between the parent and child creates a higher possibility for strong emotional development and basic school readiness skills. ”

—Marcia Wessels, Great Start Georgia

“ Parents are more confident with they are part of a program that allows them to be better prepared to help their children develop and gives them the resources needed to be a support system for their families. PACE provides parents with this confidence. ”

—Setsu Mclendon, Clayton County Board of Health.

Find out what’s happening with the United Way of Greater Atlanta’s PACE program:

Visit the PACE website at [www.settingthepace.com](http://www.settingthepace.com) for the latest news about our programs and how we are empowering Atlanta families.

Call us:  
404-527-7200

Read our blog posts about all of the great initiatives being lead by the United Way of Greater Atlanta at [www.unitedwayatlanta.org/blog](http://www.unitedwayatlanta.org/blog)

Email us:  
[info@unitedwayatlanta.org](mailto:info@unitedwayatlanta.org)

Follow us on social media:

/unitedwayatlanta

@unitedwayatlanta

@unitedwayatl

[www.linkedin.com/company/united-way-of-greater-atlanta](http://www.linkedin.com/company/united-way-of-greater-atlanta)