



Transforming Early Childhood and Family Development in Wilmington's High-Need Communities



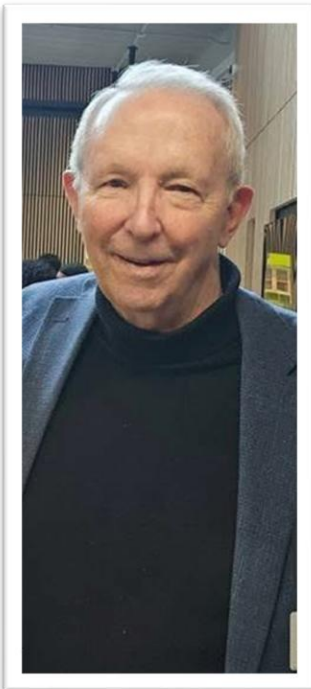
GIFT CONNECT

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Engagement Advisor



GIFT CONNECT

Our mission is to amplify the importance of birth to three development. We accomplish this through the power of music (edutainment) technology, and collaboration.



Without investing in and focusing on development during the critical first years of birth to age three, we can't transform education, reverse poverty, build the desired 21st century workforce or deliver limitless potential to every baby. – Sam Beard, President

Wilmington's Specific Challenge:

20.2% of Wilmington, DE residents had an income below the poverty level in 2023, which was 47.8% greater than the poverty level of 10.5% across the entire state of Delaware. 13.6% of high school graduates and 34.8% of non high school graduates live in poverty.



Comprehensive Initiative Launch



Core Program Components

AI-Powered Parenting Assistant

24/7 evidence- based guidance during critical moments.

Nutrition for Cognitive Development

Addresses brain- nutrition connections.

Carnegie Hall Lullaby Project

Musical activities stimulate brain development.

Trauma-Responsive Framework

Address effects of toxic stress.

Six Loving Habits Curriculum

Direct implementation of Dr. Golinkoff's research framework.

Caregiver Leadership Pipeline

Creates sustainable community networks. Multi week parent/caregiver training programs.



Research-Based Support Frameworks



Intentional Evidence-Based Curriculum

—
Focused on brain development, nutrition literacy, and parent- child bonding through music and storytelling.



Multi-Week Parent Support Program

—
Intensive cohorts serving 100 caregivers annually, with specialized tracks for custodial and non-custodial parents.



Trauma-Responsive Community Engagement



Techniques for Trauma-Informed Parenting

Strategies to help caregivers respond to challenging behaviors stemming from traumatic experiences.

Community Healing and Identifying Generational Trauma Approaches

Recognizing and addressing trauma at community levels for collective healing and resilience- building.



Nutrition for Cognitive Development

01

Essential Nutrients for Brain Growth

Linking food choices to neural development through practical meal planning for limited budgets.

02

Interactive Workshops and Community Meals

Education on nutrition literacy delivered through hands-on activities, music, and communal eating experiences.



Transformative Impact on Underprepared Kindergarten Entrants

Strategic Partnership with Mississippi's Education Reform Leaders



Replicating Mississippi's Success in Wilmington

01

Science of Reading Implementation

Alignment to evidence-based reading instruction, starting with parent knowledge to improve literacy.

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02

Comprehensive Resource and Coaching Framework

Providing consistent support and setting high expectations within community sites.

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Grassroots Community Engagement



Targeted Outreach Programs

Engaging trusted community leaders and partners to recruit participants through neighborhood community initiatives.

East Side Charter School Stem Hub, Kingswood Academy
MSK Community Center, A Better Chance for Children,
Network Connect , Community Education Building.

Faith-Based and High-Traffic Location Sessions

Information and recruitment sessions hosted at local churches, childcare centers, barbershops, salons, and laundromats to maximize reach.

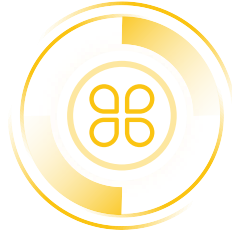


Key Dates and Activities



June–Sept 2025

Curriculum finalization and community engagement.



May 31, 2025

Community Learning Demo with African literacy advocate Stellar Mengele.



June 1, 2025

Early Literacy Symposium featuring Mississippi Miracle leaders.



October–December 2025

First cohort (50 caregivers).



March–June 2026

Second cohort (75 caregivers).



July 2026

Launch Parent– Leader training academy.

Moral Responsibility



Opportunity to lead in early childhood intervention.



Evidence and INTENTIONAL- based supports during critical neural plasticity period.



Ensuring every child starts their educational journey with a strong foundation.

Year 1

Initial Impact



125 caregivers
trained.



Implementation of
Six Loving Habits in
100 households.



Enhanced
caregiver
confidence, family
bonding and
reduced stress.

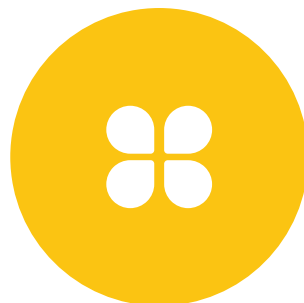


Years 2-3

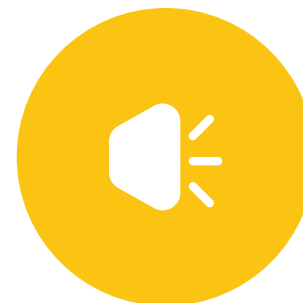
“ Continued Impact



Improved kindergarten readiness.



parent leaders developed as peer educators.



Improvements in target zip codes.

QUESTIONS?



Gift-Connect Parenting Suite
Education

Open

3 RATINGS
4.7
★★★★★

AGE
4+
Years Old

CATEGORY

Education

DEV
Gift (



GIFT CONNECT

www.gift-connect.org

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