

**SCHOOL READINESS & READY SCHOOLS:
Building & Maintaining Authentic Partnerships for
Our Children to Succeed**

embrace early



Sheltering Arms

The standard for early childhood education

OUR MISSION

Sheltering Arms transforms the lives of children, their families and communities through model early childhood education and leadership in the field.

OUR VISION

Sheltering Arms sees thriving communities where all families hold the power to create opportunity for themselves and their children.

OUR HISTORY

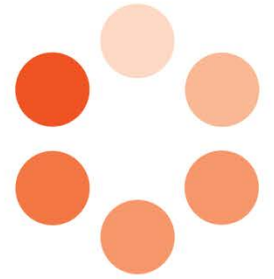
In 1888, a group of concerned Atlanta women began 'Sheltering Arms' – initially a safe space for the children of textile workers while their parents toiled in the mills.

Today, we provide more than 3,300 children and their families with world-class early childhood education and family support services each year.

131 Years. Six generations of families. 50,000 children.

OUR PROGRAM

- **15 neighborhood centers** in the metro Atlanta area form the heart of our program—safe, productive, NAEYC-accredited facilities that meet stringent health and safety standards.
- **A two-generation approach** informs our work, a strategy that supports both the child and the parent together, creating a cycle of success that flows from one generation to the next.
- **3,300+ children**, ages six weeks to five years, benefit from our services each year, along with their families
- Funded by a healthy mix of private philanthropic sources, federal, state and county resources, including **Head Start, Early Head Start, Georgia Pre-K and United Way.**



Partnerships



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Partnership: School District – Atlanta Public Schools

- Sheltering Arms Educare Center – co-located with Dunbar Elementary School
- Sheltering Arms at the Barack & Michelle Obama Academy
- Transition Grants
- APS Early Learning Office
- “Ready Schools”

Partnership: East Lake Community

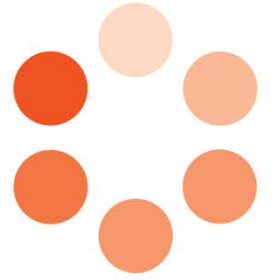
- Sheltering Arms East Lake Center
- Charles R. Drew Charter School
- Pipeline – Cradle-to-College

Partnership: GEEARS (Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students)

- Nonprofit providing leadership for a statewide movement on quality early learning development for all children ages birth through five
- Led the Atlanta Early Education Leadership Council: 24 leaders from public and private sectors
- Met for six months and immersed in the real challenges faced by Atlanta families and educators; develop workable solutions to close the gap between the Atlanta of today and the Atlanta we all envision for tomorrow
- **Goal = develop a shared vision, bold yet actionable strategies, and the funding and citywide commitment needed to sustain this work to ensure that all children in Atlanta have the opportunity to reach their full potential**

GEEARS (Cont...)

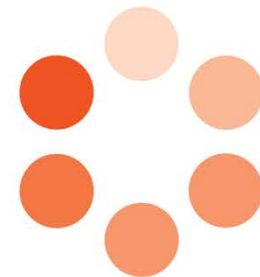
- **PAACT – Promising All Atlanta Children Thrive**
 - 8 recommendations with intended impacts and funding requests
 - Recommendations are all focused on giving children ages 0-5 access not only to high-quality early learning environments but also to the services they need to be healthy in all aspects of their lives



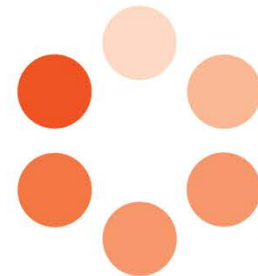
Lessons Learned

LESSONS LEARNED

- Authenticity
- “Two-Way Street”
- Equity Lens
- Who is at the table?



Questions?



Sheltering Arms
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