



## More at Four

### WHAT is More at Four?

- More at Four is North Carolina's nationally acclaimed academic pre-kindergarten initiative for at-risk four-year-olds.
- More at Four pre-kindergarten classrooms are designed to meet rigorous education standards defined by the State Board of Education, including early learning standards, an approved curriculum and licensed teachers with specialized training.
- More at Four classrooms operate in community based settings, including public schools, Head Start and licensed, high-quality child care centers.
- More at Four classrooms employ over 2,250 lead teachers who must meet the program requirement of a Birth-through-Kindergarten (B-K) or Preschool Add-on license from the N.C. Department of Public Instruction.

### WHY is More at Four so important?

- Early educational preparation for at-risk children levels the playing field, helps to close the education gap and avoids expensive remediation.
- Research has repeatedly demonstrated, and there is broad support by leading economists, military leadership, law enforcement and educators, that investments in at-risk four-year-olds have a profound effect on lifetime outcomes, and high rates of return on investment.
- More at Four serves a targeted population of four-year-olds from low-income families and with other defined risk factors that would not be served without the program.

### HOW does More at Four work?

- Children served by More at Four attend a six and a half hour school day, full school year program that meets nationally recognized early education program standards.
- More at Four is community based and is integrated with other early childhood programs administered at the county or regional level.
- Children participating in More at Four must meet strict eligibility requirements to participate, including family income and other defined risk factors. Approximately 25 percent of the four-year-olds in North Carolina participate in the More at Four program. Countless other children would benefit from a pre-kindergarten education but cannot be served due to the lack of funding.

### WHAT DIFFERENCE is More at Four making?

- According to independent evaluation findings, More at Four helps lessen the achievement gap for poor children in both math and reading performance. As such, pre-kindergarten learning experiences have a lasting effect into a child's elementary school years and are the foundation for future success in school and in life.
- More at Four currently serves almost 31,000 children each year. Nearly 160,000 students have attended the More at Four program during its first nine years (2002-2010).
- More at Four standards have set a benchmark for quality programs. Years of conclusive research show that young children who participate in More at Four benefit from enriched cognitive, social and emotional development.



**North Carolina is a leader in early childhood education initiatives.**



### The N.C. Child Care Coalition: working to improve the quality and affordability of early childhood services in North Carolina:

Kaplan Early Learning Company • NC Early Childhood Assn • NC Assn for the Education of Young Children • NC Partnership for Children  
NC Head Start Assn • Child Care Services Assn • Ctr for Community Self-Help • Covenant With NC's Children • NC Justice Ctr • United Way of NC  
Easter Seals/UCP NC • NC Pediatric Society • NC-ADD • NC Institute for Child Development Professionals • NC Licensed Child Care Association  
NC Interagency Coordinating Council and many regional and local child care agencies, child care providers and individuals.

Contact Annette Newkirk, Public Policy Consultant/Lobbyist for the Coalition: 919-692-5847; annettenewkirk@gmail.com



*“I can’t even start to describe the value of More at Four. We are very fortunate.”*

— Director of Elementary Education,  
Public School System



*“Their year in More at Four boosted students’ skills, but also their confidence. They were comfortable coming to school last fall. We’ll see exemplary growth in these children, strengths they may not have gotten at home. It’s a fabulous program. We could fill another classroom immediately if there were transportation for the students.”*

— Elementary School Principal, Public School System



*“As a grandparent and a mom of a single mother, the More at Four program has been a blessing to us. Just knowing that your child is in an environment that is nurturing, safe, and it helps him get ready for kindergarten, is a blessing. His experiences in this class are meaningful and we know that he will be successful in kindergarten. We need more programs like this one.”*

— Grandmother



For many families, finding out about the More at Four program happens through their caseworker. One parent whose son with a speech impairment qualified for the program, found out about it through the county administrator that was helping her son with his speech. *“Going to the pre-K program was very beneficial (to my son). It helped him to be in a group setting with other kids, and in addition to the preschool curriculum, he also went to speech classes at least twice a week.”*— Parent



*“Thanks to the most recent FPG {Child Development Institute, UNC-CH} research, we now also have proof that More at Four has a lasting positive effect on student learning, all the way through the third grade. Results of this recent evaluation were presented to the*

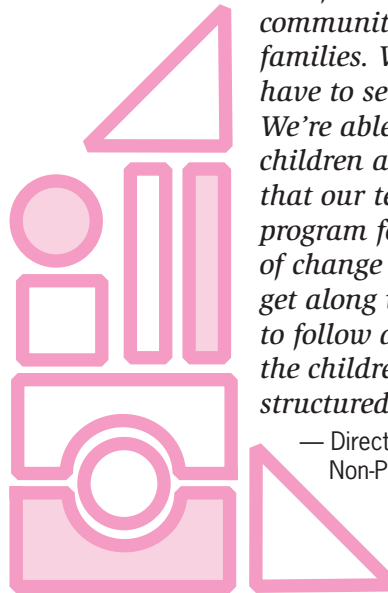
*State Board of Education this month and are simple and compelling. The final FPG report shows that economically-disadvantaged children in third grade who attended More at Four four years ago performed significantly better on end-of-grade reading and math tests than economically-disadvantaged children who did not attend More at Four.”*

— State Board of Education Chairman



*“We feel like we’re really serving the community by offering these classes for families. We’re utilizing the facilities we have to serve the needs of the community. We’re able to serve a large population of children and we have a lot of resources ... that our teachers can utilize to enhance the program for the children. We see a great deal of change in the children in their ability to get along with each other and their ability to follow directions from an adult. A lot of the children have never been in any type of structured classroom situation.”*

— Director of Weekday Education,  
Non-Profit Faith-Based Provider



For over 30 years, mother and grandmother Lorraine Dixon has been tending to children’s needs as the owner of ABC Land child care center in Wendell, N.C. In 2002, Lorraine started with one More at Four classroom and now has three, assuring the 54 children enrolled have the skills they need to start kindergarten. When Lorraine first agreed to host the More at Four program, ABC Land was the only five-star center in Wendell.

“More at Four is beneficial for all involved,” explains Lorraine. “Some of the children might never have been in an environment that would prepare them for school if it were not for More at Four.”

In Lorraine’s eyes, everyone wins through More at Four. Not only do the children acquire a strong academic foundation, they enjoy coming to their More at Four classroom and develop a love of learning that fosters future success. The parents are appreciative because their children are in a high quality facility and are learning critical skills. Lorraine is doing something she loves, and her staff continues to take advantage of opportunities to further their education. “More at Four is a wonderful program,” continues Dixon. “It is gratifying to see everyone benefit: the children, the parents, the staff, and ultimately, society.”