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BORN LEARNING ACADEMY IN KENTON COUNTY PREPARING CHILDREN FOR KINDERGARTEN

30 children are on their way achieving success in kindergarten thanks to a new program launched by the Kenton County School District. The Born Learning Academy is a program that teaches parents and caregivers of children from prenatal to five years of age how to turn everyday moments into learning opportunities. The program aims to give these children the tools they need to achieve success when enrolling in school and beyond.

The program involves six monthly workshops at Beechgrove Elementary in Independence. It is a collaborative effort between United Way of Greater Cincinnati, Kenton County School District, The Bank of Kentucky and Citi. Currently, 15 families with 22 adults and 30 children are participating in the program, which is being facilitated by Beechgrove's assistant principal Kim Mott and guidance counselor Vickey Martin. Julia Goodman of the Family Resource Center at Beechgrove Elementary has been instrumental in recruiting the families and ensuring they stay committed to the monthly program.

The Born Learning Academy came to fruition after Kenton County Superintendent Tim Hanner was inspired by the Harlem Children's Zone Project, which strives to surround children with support as early as possible and provide learning experiences throughout the day.

"It's important we give children in our community the best tools available so they're ready to learn when they make it to school," says Hanner. "I thought if we reached out to Kenton County's expectant mothers and families with young children, we could really help these kids and set them on the right track for learning."

born learning™ was created by United Way Worldwide as a tool to help parents, caregivers and communities create quality early learning opportunities for young children. It strives to make parents and caregivers aware of how young children learn, as well as teach easy, fun action steps that parents and grandparents can use everyday as they interact with children.

"These are easy tools, sometimes as simple as talking about the colors of the trucks that pass by while mom and baby head to the grocery store," says Amy Neal, United Way of Greater Cincinnati – Northern Kentucky Success By 6® Manager. "Starting a conversation with these parents about education, and the everyday opportunities that exist is essential to these children and their future academic successes."

For more information on the Born Learning Academy, please contact Amy Neal at 859-647-5522. You can also find more information on born learning™ at www.bornlearning.org.