Annual Report 2022
Our Mission:
Early Learning Works strives to positively influence the lives of children from birth through age eight and their families by engaging meaningfully with early learning educators, parents, and community organizations. We mobilize resources and provide skill-building opportunities, professional development, and early learning workshops.

At Early Learning Works, we offer innovative programs, tools, and resources to reach our community outside the walls of the Educare schools. We collaborate with faith-based and other community organizations to host and support workshops for parents and children, including Active Parenting, Talking is Teaching, and Family, Friends, and Neighbors.

2022 Outreach Numbers At A Glance:
- 100 child care providers reached through coaching, consultations and Professional Development workshops
- 3,000 (duplicated) people reached with Talking is Teaching and Active Parenting
- 336 (duplicated) child care providers participated in 12 monthly Virtual Talking is Teaching events, receiving more than 4,000 books for the children in their care
- 21 people trained through Family, Friends & Neighbors
- 7,000 educational materials (books and toys) distributed
- 18,000 Connect Play Grow cards distributed to a number of organizations to share with the families they serve
- 33 organizations partnering with Early Learning Works to offer programming and support
Dear Friends,

We have delightful changes to share with you! You have long known us as Beyond the Walls of Tulsa Educare, but we have been Early Learning Works (ELW) of Tulsa Educare since 2020. We also relocated to a new building that, despite the raging pandemic, in which we are safely nestled.

We had a fruitful 2022, and accomplished great things. We are grateful for the heartfelt support—not only from our Tulsa Educare organization for coddling the growth of Early Learning Works, but also to our funder, the George Kaiser Family Foundation’s Birth through Eight Strategy for Tulsa (BEST), for providing guidance and direction through some unsteady times.

In 2022, we kicked off our Learning Getaway Series, delivering high-quality professional development for child care providers. Focused on child care homes, we offered training on best business and pedagogical practices. This series has also been a great opportunity for providers to network, peer mentor each other, and both establish and sustain trusting relationships.

Our Early Learning Workshops with parents and faith-based and community organizations have been quite popular—creating demand to deliver many more! Delivered in Spanish, the Family, Friends and Neighbors program has enhanced the skills of those family, friends, and neighbors caring for other people’s children. This expansion of programs has given us the opportunity to grow our team from seven to nine members, and will continue to bring superior programming to even more people in our Tulsa community.

Maria Carlota Palacios, LCSW
Director, Early Learning Works
Coaching & Consultation
We engage in intensive coaching and professional development with child care providers, identifying strategies and solutions, engaging in individualized hands-on support and modeling, and offering free resources and materials.

Learning Getaways Series
Offered exclusively to child care providers in Tulsa, this professional development series includes business and pedagogical best practices, business acumen, and health and safety guidelines.

Playground Supervision Program
This unique program enhances child care homes by offering assessments of their playground. The goal of this assessment is to ensure the safety and compliance with state regulations. We conduct a walk through of the yard or playground space, assess the area, and provide feedback to discuss possible improvements. We offer a stipend toward the purchase of items to enhance the quality of their playground space.

Small Group Activities
One of our favorite creations is offering activity kits for child care providers to expand their educational library. These kits are designed by our experts to encourage intentional individualized play, including specialized curriculum and educational toys and materials.

Other Projects
We join with other community organizations to offer innovative projects to expand and enhance the education of the children under the providers’ care. One of these organizations is Art4orms, which provides access to art education.
“As a participant in the ELW Playground Inspection Program, my family child care was improved tremendously. The staff were very helpful in determining what toys were appropriate for the children and what improvements could be made for the safety of the children. Thank you ELW staff for supporting family child care.”

- Judy Mayfield, Child Care Provider

Reaching Child Care Providers:

- 100 providers reached through coaching, consultations and Professional Development workshops

“By engaging with ELW & Art4orms, I have made big changes to my Creative Art center. Each week, I rotate different art supplies and children are allowed to create with any of the items of their choice. Some of their choices may include watercolors, modeling clay, colored pencils & ink pads with stamps, even different types of paper! Since these items are now in rotation instead of the same crayons & markers out everyday, the children use this area more frequently & are enjoying exploring with different supplies each week!”

- Alyson Grundy, Child Care Provider
Talking is Teaching
Talking is Teaching aims to motivate parents and caregivers to talk, read, and sing more with their young children from birth. Early Learning Works partners with community and faith-based organizations to offer monthly engaging events for families with children birth through eight years old. Each event includes a child development topic and interactive reading in English and Spanish. Every family takes home the book of the month and a tip card full of activities to do with their children at home.

This program has expanded to child care providers through a monthly virtual dialogic and interactive reading modeled by ELW staff. Participants receive an age-appropriate book for each child in their care.

Active Parenting
This program is a popular series conducted over several weeks offered to parents and caregivers with children birth through 12 years old. This series, presented in English and Spanish, combines interactive discussion, videos and activities addressing topics such as ages and stages, importance of routines, and communication and problem solving techniques.

Family, Friends, and Neighbors Program
Offered fully in Spanish, this program was designed with the goal of offering best child care practices for non-licensed caregivers. Grandmothers, aunts, uncles, and neighbors, who take care of children who are not their own engage in this workshop series providing resources and hands-on experience. Topics include brain development, ages and stages, nutrition, safety, and parent/caregiver relationship practices.
“At Palmer Tulsa Women and Children’s Center we love our collaboration with Early Learning Works. They are so flexible and willing to help our ladies learn parenting skills that are needed to improve their lives and the lives of their children. The classes they provide for our ladies are priceless and we very much appreciate their love and compassion to help others.”

- Amy Cox MS, LADC
Clinical Director
Women & Children’s Center

Reaching Our Community with Early Learning Workshops:

- **3,000** (duplicated) people reached through Talking is Teaching and Active Parenting
- **336** (duplicated) child care providers participated in 12 monthly Virtual Talking is Teaching events, receiving more than **4,000** books for the children in their care
- **21** people trained through Family, Friends & Neighbors
Community Outreach and Events:
Early Learning Works enjoys attending community events in Tulsa because it gives us the opportunity to distribute books and educational materials to children, parents, and other adults. Through these events, we also increase our presence in the community, engage with parents, and invite them to participate in our programs.
Reaching Our Community Through Outreach Projects:

- **7,000** educational materials (books and toys) distributed
- **18,000** Connect Play Grow cards distributed to a number of organizations to share with the families they serve

“I like giving the clients the brain boxes because it continues to show how important talking, reading and singing to your baby is and the educational opportunities it has with the toys and extra book. The book really explains how this will help in future academic success and increase bonding between parent and baby.”

- Xiomara Ortiz-Loop

The Parent Child Center of Tulsa
We are proud to join with Tulsa organizations to support and strengthen our community. We have worked with the following organizations to provide resources at community events, facilitate workshops, and more.

- Antioch Baptist Church
- Art4orms
- Bethel Worship Center
- Braxton’s Hope Foundation
- Building All Children
- Catholic Charities
- Center for Early Childhood Professional Development (CECPD)
- Cherokee Nation Child Care and Development Licensing
- ChildCare Warmline
- Comunidad de Esperanza
- ConnectFirst
- Food on the Move
- Full Gospel Assembly International Ministry
- Gaining Ground
- Gathering Place
- Iglesia Oeste Asamblea de Dios
- Memorial High School
- Metropolitan Baptist Church
- Muscogee Nation Child Care Licensing
- National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC)
- Oklahoma Child Care Resource and Referral
- Oklahoma Department of Human Services
- Oklahoma School for the Deaf
- Oklahoma Shared Services
- OSU Tulsa
- Strong Tomorrows
- Therapitas
- Tulsa Community College
- Tulsa Community College, Bridging the Gap Scholarship Program
- Tulsa Community College, Child Development and Education
- Tulsa Health Department
- Tulsa Housing Authority
- Tulsa Public Schools
- Tulsa Public Schools, Early Childhood
- Tulsa Tech
- Tulsa Women and Children’s Center
In November of 2022, Early Learning Works (ELW) received a $244,000 grant from the Oklahoma Clearinghouse for Early Childhood Success to support individuals in opening high-quality family child care homes. ELW is seeking candidates ready to start a family child care home business as part of this first-of-its-kind grant project. This pilot program focuses on building Tulsa’s next generation of high-quality child care homes.

“We know that there aren’t enough child care facilities to serve working families in Tulsa,” said Maria Carlota Palacios, Director of Early Learning Works. “To address this, ELW designed and developed this pilot program with business and pedagogical professional development training along with introducing technology to create the next generation of high-quality child care homes.”

With this project, Early Learning Works will guide up to 15 participants through the process of opening a family child care home while they work with the Department of Human Services (DHS) to obtain their license. Once approved by DHS, ELW will provide participants with business and pedagogical training. They will also receive one-on-one coaching and one-year subscription to Brightwheel, a child care business software.

We look forward to working with our grant participants and supporting them as they open their own child care businesses in 2023!