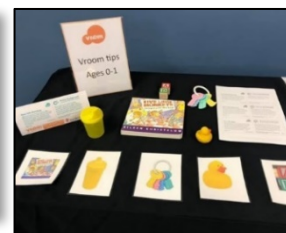
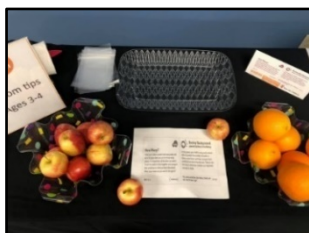


## APPENDIX I. EXAMPLES OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS

### Early Childhood Professional Development Conference – Example from Perry County, KY

During an annual Infant/Toddler Professional Development Conference, Save the Children staff provided a keynote address on [Vroom](#) and a series of early learning tip demonstrations to illustrate how Brain Building Moments can be incorporated into existing early childhood programming and services. The keynote overviewed early brain development with a focus upon the critical role of early relationships and back-and-forth interactions. Information included Vroom Brain Building Basics, how to access key resources, as well as a provider's testimonial on the impact of Vroom on their engagement with families and children. Demonstration tables illustrated tips across age groups, and provided participants with integration strategies to empower brain-builders within existing programs and communities.

Conference participants included professionals from a variety of settings, including Early Childhood Centers, Preschools, Head Start, and Family Child Care Homes. The conference was held at a local community college providing college instructors an introduction to Vroom, as well as resources to share with their students. Conference participants received Continuing Educational Unit hours by participating in the Vroom Keynote and demonstration tables. Vroom Store materials were available for participants to take back and integrate into their programs.



### Faith and Foundations Kindergarten Readiness Summit – Example from Whitley County KY

The Whitley County Community Collaborative, a cross-sector group focused upon improving early learning outcomes, hosted a Faith and Foundations Kindergarten Readiness Summit to increase awareness and engagement amongst church leaders to address local kindergarten readiness needs. Participants learned that half of children in the county do not currently meet state standards for readiness on kindergarten entry assessments, which increases the risk of poor achievement in school and later in life.

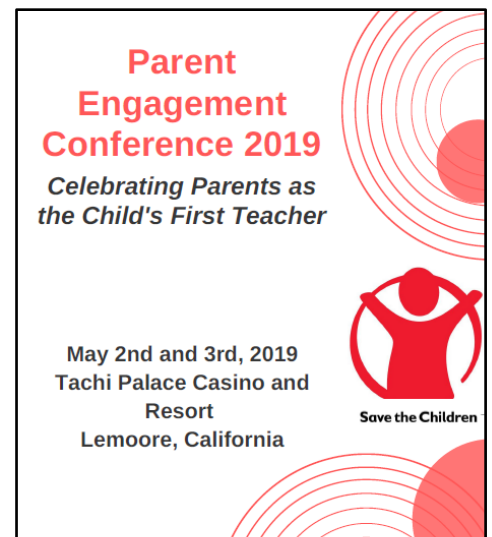
Presentations from a local superintendent, early childhood council member, and pastor each addressed the critical role of the faith community to support early childhood development. "One of the biggest assets we have in our community is our local churches and faith leaders who are dedicated and passionate about improving the lives of children and families," shared a Save the Children staff member. Vroom was introduced to promote Brain Building Moments within children's programming and family outreach efforts, and resources were shared with participants, including Vroom materials and books for home libraries.



## **Parent Engagement Conference** – *Example from Tulare County, CA*

Save the Children and community partners designed and implemented a Parent Engagement Conference, "Celebrating Parents as the Child's First Teacher," to celebrate and inspire parents/caregivers, enrich family's well-being, promote relationships and connections between families and service providers, and to provide information, strategies and opportunities for reflection to increase parent engagement in children's development and education.

A local superintendent provided a Keynote on the role of self-efficacy in parent engagement. A series of workshops addressed topics such as brain development, social emotional and literacy development, strategies to support kindergarten transition, family health and wellness resources, parent advocacy, and parents' education and career development. Kindergarten Readiness information and resources were provided to participants to support parent engagement and to spark joy in the moments they share with their children.



## **Born Learning Trail** – *Example from Cocke County, TN*



Community leaders came together to establish a Born Learning Trail in their local park. This interactive trail contains signs with instructions for simple games that will turn an excursion at the park into fun learning moments for young children.

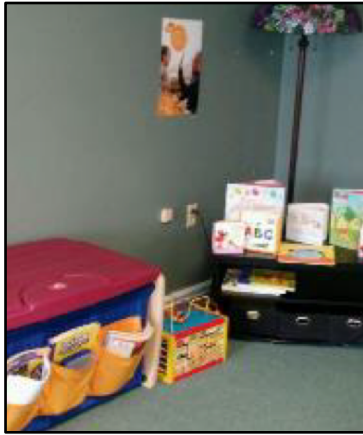
The trail's theme of *Watch! Stop! Learn! Play!* encourages parents and caregivers to follow the child's lead, building the child's curiosity and confidence, and reinforces learning opportunities present in everyday life.

The Born Learning Trail supports language, literacy and social skills development, and reminds us that learning can be fun!

## **Little Free Library** – *Example from Barnwell County, SC*

A Regional Housing Authority in South Carolina established a network of community bookshelves across multiple counties to promote literacy and increase access to reading materials in parks, outside grocery stores, gas stations, and apartments, and anywhere else families spend time together. Grant funds, community partner cost share, and local book drives help restock the libraries as needed.



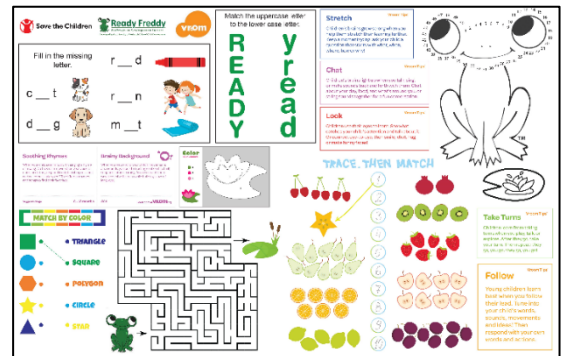
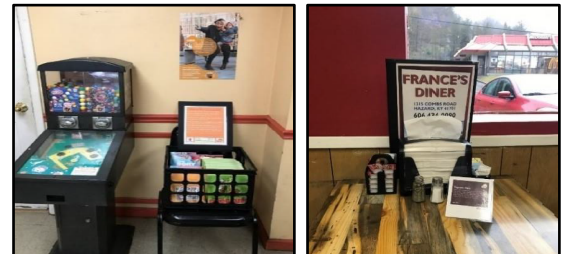


### Family Reading & Learning Corner – Example from Jackson County, KY

Family reading and learning corners have been set-up in local businesses like restaurants, law offices, health departments, etc. Children and families enjoy reading books and engaging in fun learning activities together while they have downtime, and the staff share information on community early childhood programs and Kindergarten Readiness skills. One office receptionist shared, “We put up posters in our waiting room and give families flyers as they check-in, and that makes parents more aware of the program and how great it is to have something like this in the community.”

### Mobile Book Crate & Activity Mats – Example from Perry County, TN

Mobile book crates have been made available where children can select a free book to read while on-site or take home to add to their home library. Table tents with early learning tips for caregivers and activity placemats for children encourage families to engage in learning experiences while they dine. A Save the Children staff member shared, “[Restaurant owners] were excited to hear about the learning tip activities because they show how simple it is to turn everyday moments like mealtime, into brain-building moments.” Partners worked with local Kindergarten teachers to develop Early Learning Activity Placemats that children can work on while they’re waiting for their food to arrive, and placemats are placed in carryout orders to support learning at home.



### Community Book Shelf – Example from Clay County, KY

A community bookshelf has been established so that families could read together while they waited for their appointment. The bookshelf also held flyers for caregivers that contained information on the importance of family reading time and some tips to make reading fun and support the development of critical literacy skills. For families of pre-K children, office staff and physicians share Kindergarten registration information along with tips for how families can support early learning and healthy development at home.

### Story Walk – Example from Litchfield County, CT

A Story Walk is an innovative and delightful way for children — and adults! — to enjoy reading and the outdoors at the same time. Laminated pages from a children's book are attached to wooden stakes, which are installed along an outdoor path. As you stroll down the trail, you're directed to the next page in the story.



## **Other Community Projects that Support Early Learning**

**School Readiness/Grade Level Reading Media Campaigns** – Utilize local and social media to raise awareness of what School Readiness and Grade Level Reading means and how families and local leaders can support the development of critical early learning skills. Engage local leaders to increase the messenger pool and promote buy-in from community members.

**Kindergarten Readiness/Literacy Festivals** – Bring community members from all sectors together to hold a festival to raise awareness of the importance of Kindergarten Readiness and Early Childhood Literacy, get books and learning materials into the hands of families, engage children and caregivers in fun, hands-on learning activities, and lift up early learning as a priority in the community.

**Caregiver Education Workshop Series** – Hold a series of workshops with families to teach them how they can support early learning with their children at home or while out in the community. Provide materials and model how families can use those materials to support the development of critical early learning skills.

**Library Transformation Projects** – Revamp the local public library to increase access to books, establish family-friendly learning spaces, and make the library more inviting and engaging for families.

**Summer Learning/Kindergarten Readiness Go-kits** – Fill backpacks with books, learning activities, school readiness tips, Kindergarten registration information, etc. for distribution to families through local partners (churches, grocery store, libraries, housing authority) to mitigate summer learning loss and ensure children and families are ready – and excited! – for the first day of school.

**Community Kindergarten Transition Team** – Establish a community-level Kindergarten Transition Team. Work with local schools, Head Start, Pre-K child care centers and other key partners to identify service gaps across the community, increase communication and collaboration between Pre-K and Kindergarten teachers, and develop structures and supports that ensure all children in the community are ready to start learning on the first day of Kindergarten.

**Story Time in the Park** – Establish a series of public story times in the local park or recreation center. Engage partners from the public library, local schools, and civic organizations to plan and promote the series. Recruit local celebrities like the mayor, principals/superintendent, high school athletes, pastors, and other beloved community members to lead a read-aloud of popular children's books and engage families in fun activities that connect with the story.