

# Strategic Goal:

## A “go-to source” for families to aid them in making well-informed decisions regarding their child’s early experiences.

Engaging in a child’s learning and development is a dynamic and intentional process. Research shows that active family engagement leads to better outcomes for children and builds strong learning communities.



The everyday interactions that adults have with the young children in their care have a great impact on their healthy development and learning.

Trying Together has made significant strides in helping families make educated choices about their children’s care and education.

Since 2020, Trying Together has:

- Completed the first 12 parts of [Developmentally Appropriate Parenting](#), a resource series for caregivers to learn to engage in positive ways with their young children that supports healthy learning environments and relationships. The series includes several Guides for Families on topics such as: [early intervention](#); [supporting social-emotional development](#); [childhood mental health](#); and [discussing race and equity with children](#).
- Produced the Parenting Together Pathway, a [video-based learning series](#) that provides high-quality information on early childhood development to parents and caregivers.
- Created an online Family Engagement Toolkit for families and child care professionals.
- Curated a list of and promoted anti-racism resources for families and child care providers. To date, the page has been viewed 40,572 times and is consistently one of the top-performing pages on the website each month.
- Distributed monthly email newsletters to an audience of families served by ELRC Region 5.
- Created family-focused web pages on the ELRC Region 5 website with information about applying for Child Care Works (CCW) subsidy, finding child care, and more.

## Developmentally Appropriate Parenting (DAP) Resource Series

Since beginning in 2020, Trying Together has completed its 12-part family resource content series, [Developmentally Appropriate Parenting](#).

These resources were curated and developed to empower parents, relative care providers, and other caregivers to create high-quality experiences at the earliest stages of their child's life. In each part, Trying Together focuses on a specific early childhood topic and shares relevant digital and printable content that features information, tips, and helpful resources.

Series topics include:

- Part I: Developmentally Appropriate Practice (DAP)
- Part II: Childhood Physical Health

- Part III: Child Care
- Part IV: Early Intervention (EI)
- Part V: Safety
- Part VI: Social-Emotional Development
- Part VII: Childhood Mental Health
- Part VIII: Race and Equity
- Part IX: Transitions and Routines
- Part X: Gender and Gender Identity
- Part XI: Family Dynamics
- Part XII: Caring for the Caregiver

Trying Together also created and distributed card sets featuring information and resources on the early childhood topic featured in each part. To date, Trying Together has distributed 530 card sets to caregivers.



## Parenting Together Pathway

The Parenting Together Pathway is a video-based learning series created by Trying Together that provides high-quality information on early childhood development to parents and caregivers.

Launched in April 2021, the Parenting Together Pathway provides families the opportunity to learn more about topics to better support their children's health growth, such as:

- Brain development
- Play
- Interactions and relationships
- Technology
- Child care
- Advocacy
- Early intervention
- Safety and emergencies
- Social-Emotional development

In 2022, Trying Together plans to add more videos to the series. The next topic will focus on positive racial identity development.

The Parenting Together Pathway page on the website has been viewed 906 times, with an additional 177 video views on Vimeo.

## Family Resource Referrals

In fall 2020, Trying Together hired a Family Resource Coordinator to assist families who contact the ELRC Region 5 for resource requests.

Requests fall into two categories: child care-specific needs or family-related needs. The Family Resource Coordinator helps families:

- Navigate the Allegheny Child Care Finder Tool
- Find spots for children who qualify for assistance programs
- Find high-quality child care programs
- Obtain early intervention resources
- Find resources for early intervention or behavior support

Since beginning, the Family Resource Coordinator has given 3,191 referrals with more than 2,500 for child-care related needs. To continue to support and meet the needs of families, the partners of the ELRC Region 5 have expanded staffing.

## Family Engagement Toolkit

In an effort to support caregivers in bolstering their family engagement practice, Trying Together created the **Family Engagement Toolkit**, an online toolkit of printable resources that enables families and early childhood educators to:

- Access strategies that strengthen the relationships that nourish a child's growth and sense of belonging
- Find ideas and resources to enrich relationships in their learning community
- Learn ways to increase equity and access for all involved
- Take the opportunity to reflect on the family engagement practices in their home or program

The Toolkit is best suited for families and child care providers of children ages birth to nine years and provides information and resources on family engagement practices in a variety of settings, including child care centers, family child care homes, group child care homes, and relative provider locations.

Since its launch in February 2021, the toolkit page on the website has had 3,693 pageviews.

## Family Engagement Impact

**45,052**

pageviews of Allegheny Child Care  
at [tryingtogether.org](https://tryingtogether.org) since July 2020

**32,434**

pageviews of the Developmentally Appropriate  
Parenting series pages at [tryingtogether.org](https://tryingtogether.org)  
since July 2020

**530**

DAP Series card sets distributed to  
caregivers and families

**3,191**

referrals given to families by the Family  
Resource Coordinator