

About Trying Together

Vision:

Trying Together envisions a future in which all caregivers feel valued.

Mission:

Trying Together supports high-quality care and education for young children by providing advocacy, community resources, and professional growth opportunities for the needs and rights of children, their families, and the individuals who interact with them. Trying Together works regionally (in Southwestern Pennsylvania)* and takes its expertise and models to statewide and national audiences.

** While Trying Together is physically located in Allegheny County, the organization serves a 10-county footprint including: Allegheny; Armstrong; Beaver; Butler; Fayette; Greene; Indiana; Lawrence; Washington; and Westmoreland counties.*

Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Statement:

Trying Together envisions a future in which all caregivers of young children feel valued for their work. When we inspire belonging among caregivers, we inspire belonging within them. Our inclusive approach to advocacy, community resources, and professional growth opportunities strives to place diversity, equity, and racial justice at the core of everything we do. We encourage our team, our partners, and our communities to interact compassionately and honor the range of cultures, ideas, and identities that root us. Young children develop and learn by example; this means that children whose early learning environments reflect just actions, equitable opportunities, diverse

representation, and inclusive approaches experience healthier interactions and build relationships that enable them to thrive.

2023–2027 Strategy Roadmap:

By 2027, Trying Together will sustain a culture of belonging within its staff and Board of Directors and with families, educators, and community partners that values curiosity and collaboration, and nurtures a community of accountability and continuous learning. With this ecosystem in place, Trying Together will be:

- A trusted source for families to collaborate with regarding their child’s early experiences.
- An experienced facilitator of inclusive learning opportunities for educators that aims to ensure every child has access to high-quality early care and education.
- A collaborative convener that coordinates and helps to connect systems to support early care and education.
- A committed advocate mobilizing for policy change alongside communities to elevate the needs of young children, families, and educators for an equitable early care and education system.
- An accountable nonprofit that prioritizes ethics when raising funds in support of its mission and provides transparent stewardship to its donors.

Learn more about these goals by reading the **2023–2027 Strategy Roadmap (PDF)** online at tryingtogether.org.



**Sponsor
Trying
Together**
**and Support the Work
of Early Childhood
in Southwestern
Pennsylvania**

We need to remember that children are trying too—trying to understand their feelings and their world, trying to please the people they love, trying to grow. When grownups and children are trying together, just about anything can be possible.

– Fred Rogers

tryingtogether.org

More than 60 years ago, a group of dedicated volunteers in Pittsburgh had a vision. They envisioned a future where young children had what they needed to thrive because the early care and education professionals who cared for and educated them were valued for the essential role they serve in supporting children’s healthy development and learning. Known as the Pittsburgh Area Preschool Association (PAPA) and Pittsburgh Association for the Education of Young Children (PAEYC) over the years, this early childhood 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization has grown to become what families and early educators in Southwestern Pennsylvania know today as Trying Together.



In support of this effort, Trying Together has developed a new five-year strategic plan to guide this work through 2027. With continued financial support and collaboration, Trying Together will work to ensure the needs and rights of educators, families, children, and communities continue to be prioritized to create a future in which caregivers feel valued; children have access to high-quality early learning environments; and families have the resources they need to support their children’s early learning experiences so they can thrive.

To learn more about the sponsorship opportunities listed throughout this document or to discuss ideas you may have for supporting the work of early childhood, please contact Kerry May, Assistant Director of Development at 412.206.1053 or kerry@tryingtogether.org.



Sponsorship Opportunities

Public Policy

- Constituent visits to policymakers.
- Early Childhood Education (ECE) Advocacy Fellowship
- Early Learning PA Advocacy Campaigns
 - Childhood Begins At Home (home visiting)
 - Pre-K for PA (pre-kindergarten)
 - Start Strong PA (child care)
 - Thriving PA (pre-natal and maternal health including early intervention)
- Provider Advisory Board (PAB)

Community Resources

- Allegheny Child Care Finder Tool
- Developmentally Appropriate Parenting (DAP) Resource Series
 - Parenting Together Pathway Videos
- Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC)/Pre-K Scholarship Organization Fund
- Playful Pittsburgh
- The Homewood Early Learning Hub & Family Center
 - Early Literacy

Quality Initiatives

- Institute for Early Childhood Careers
 - Talent Recruitment & Acquisition
 - Education & Credentials
 - Other Resources
- Professional Development Curriculum & Tools
- UnConference(s)

Community Engagement Events

- Month of The Young Child (MOYC)
 - Annual Celebration of Early Childhood Educators Dinner
 - Homewood Early Learning Block Party
 - Grasstops Awards Ceremony
- Ultimate Play Day

Donor Cultivation

- Direct Mail
- Email
- Social Media
- Giving Tuesday/Give Big Pittsburgh Campaign
- End of Calendar Year Campaign
- The Highmark Bright Blue Futures Walk for a Healthy Community Campaign
- Month of The Young Child (MOYC) Campaign
- End of Fiscal Year Campaign

