



# PATHWAYS TO KINDERGARTEN SUCCESS

Ken Smythe-Leistico, MSW LSW

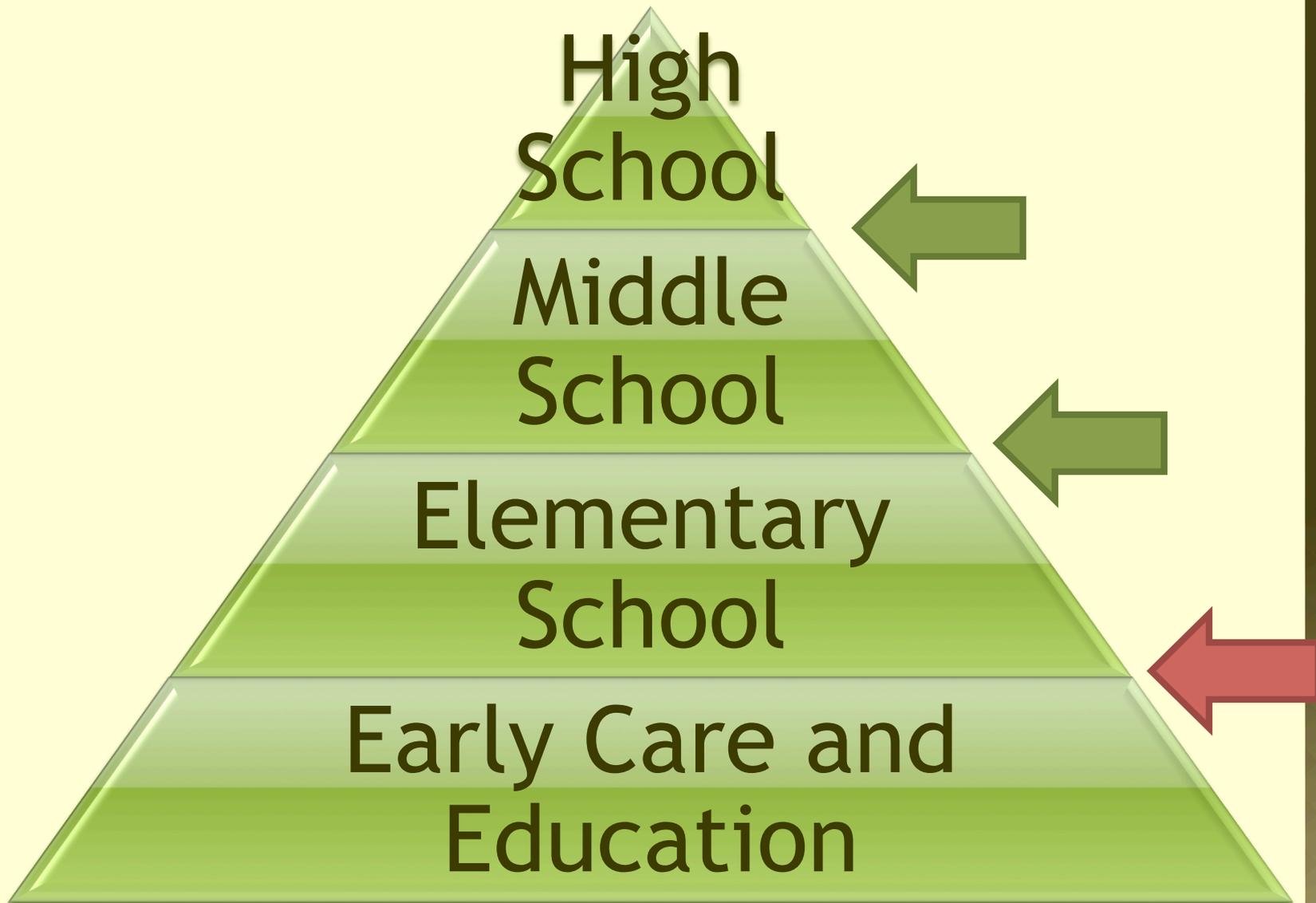
University of Pittsburgh  
Office of Child Development  
[www.readyfreddy.org](http://www.readyfreddy.org)

# BOGS - N - FROGS

- ◉ Predicting school success
- ◉ Getting kids ready
- ◉ Transition
  - What is it and why is it so important?
  - Transition Teams
- ◉ Ready Freddy
  - Why the frog
  - Kindergarten Clubs
- ◉ Oh, Hoppy Day
  - Activities to promote healthy Kindergarten Transitions



# Building for a Future

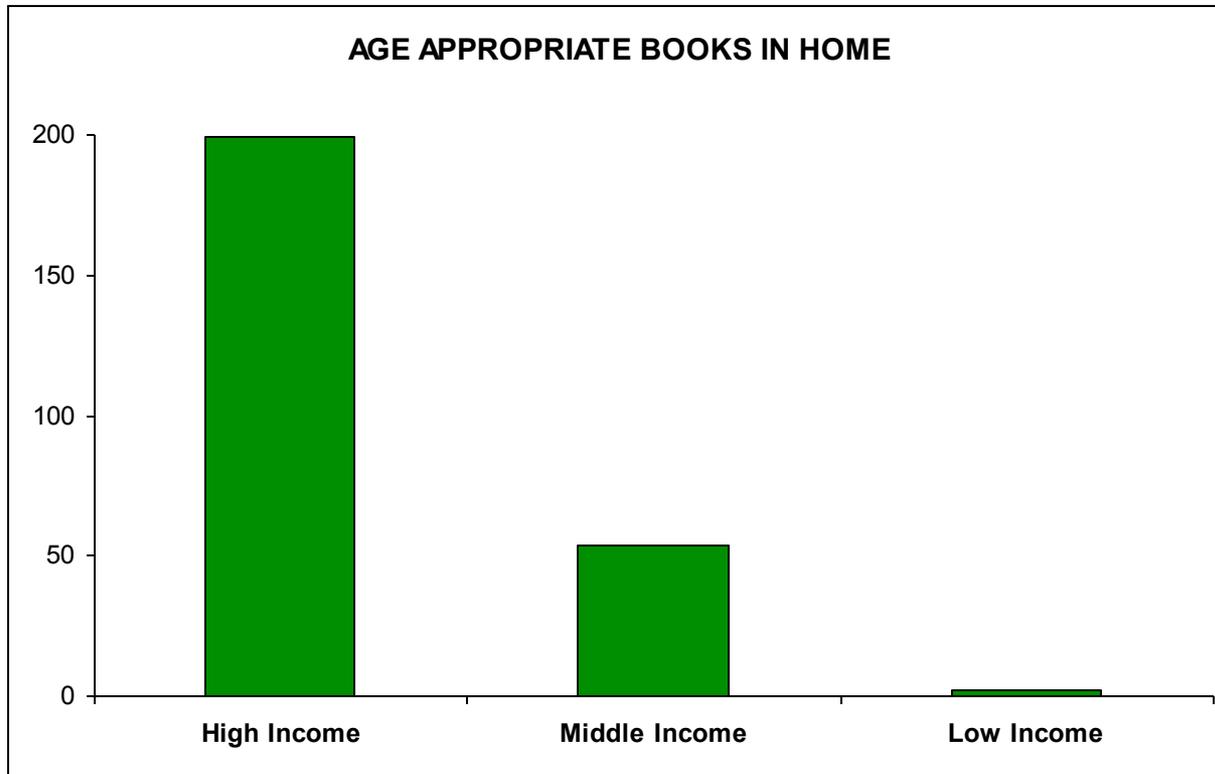


# PREDICTING SCHOOL SUCCESS



- ◉ What ‘factors’ of a child’s early life would predict how well they do in Kindergarten?

# Differences in Opportunities



# Get Ready Freddy!

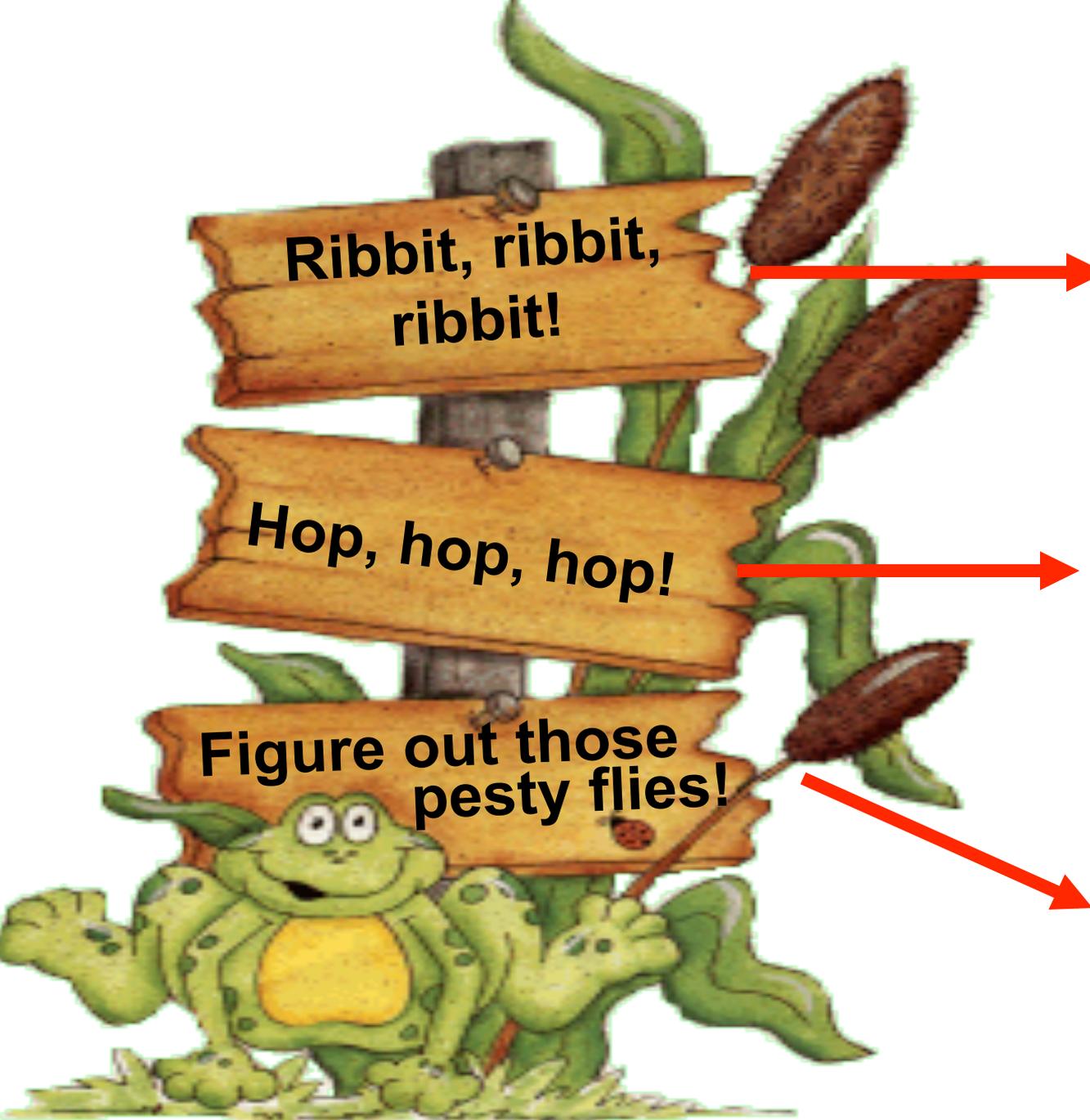
Tips to help kids **SWING** into school!



Helping parents find their role

**What's  
a frog  
gotta  
do?**





**Ribbit, ribbit,  
ribbit!**

**Talk, talk,  
talk!**

**Hop, hop, hop!**

**Do things  
alone!**

**Figure out those  
pesty flies!**

**Notice,  
think, and  
solve!**

# Talk, talk, talk!

- The more words a child knows at 3, the better his reading is later
- 3-year-olds whose parents went to college know more than twice as many words as other kids
- By the time they are 4, low-income kids have heard about 32 million words less than high-income kids

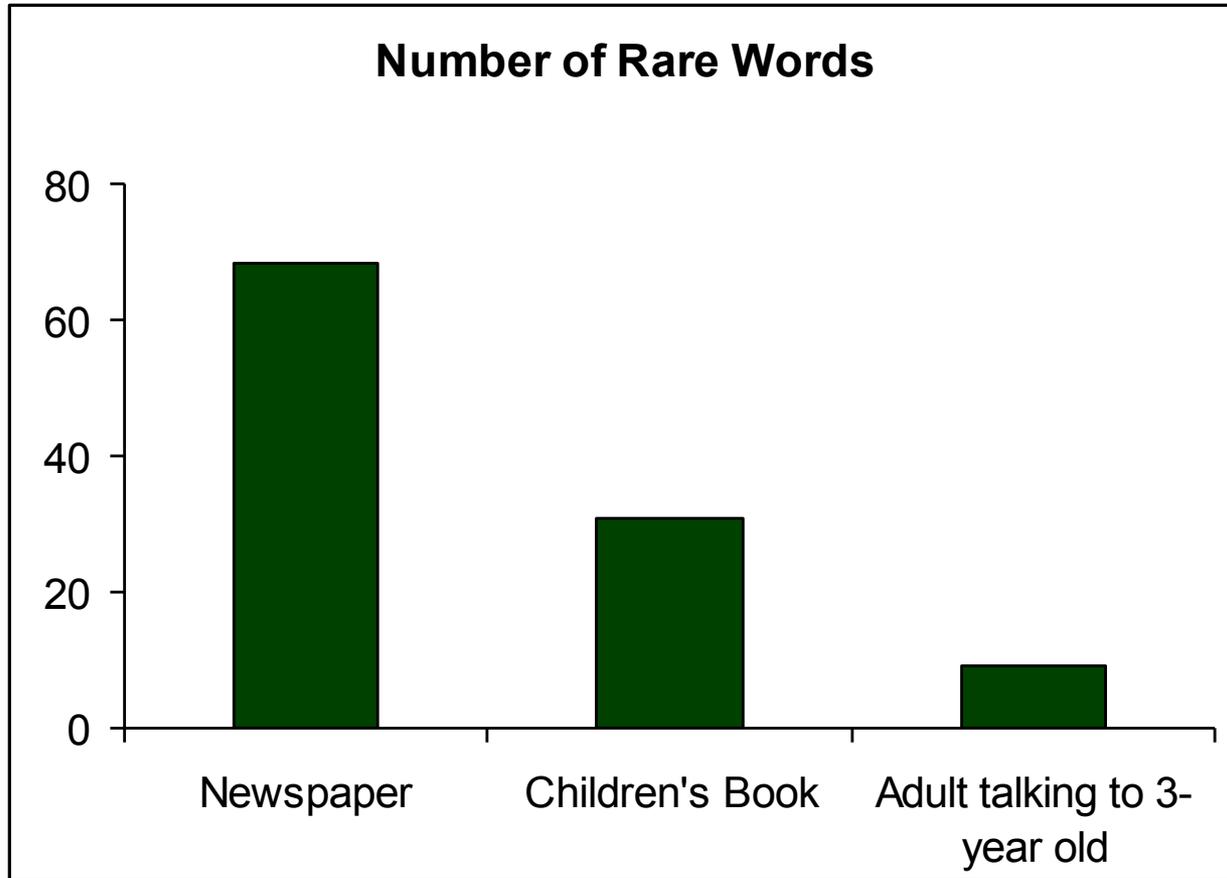
**How do you help kids  
learn more words?**

**Talk, talk, talk!**

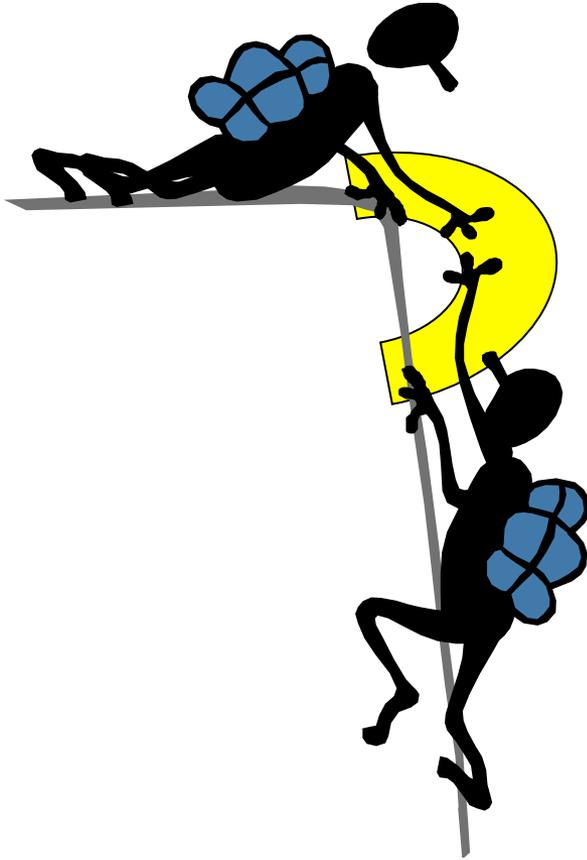
**How else do you help  
kids learn more words?**

**Read, read, read!**

# Why read aloud?



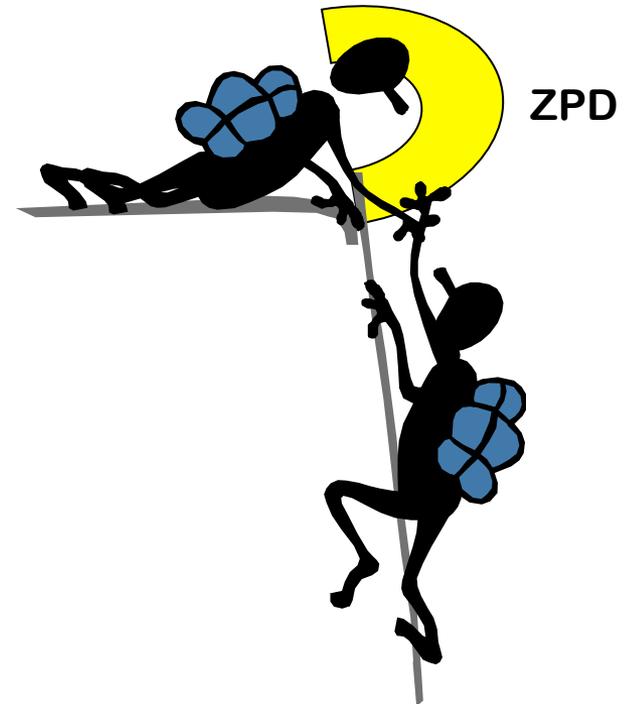
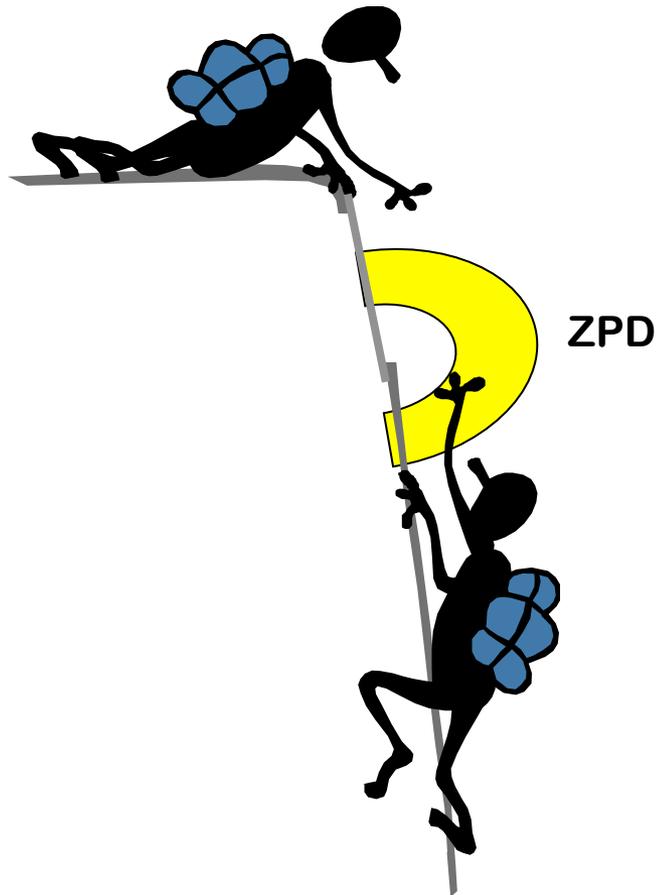
# Zone of Proximal Development



Zone of proximal development

...the gap between what a child can do alone and what the child can do when helped by someone else

# Too much help or too little help does NOT lead to learning!

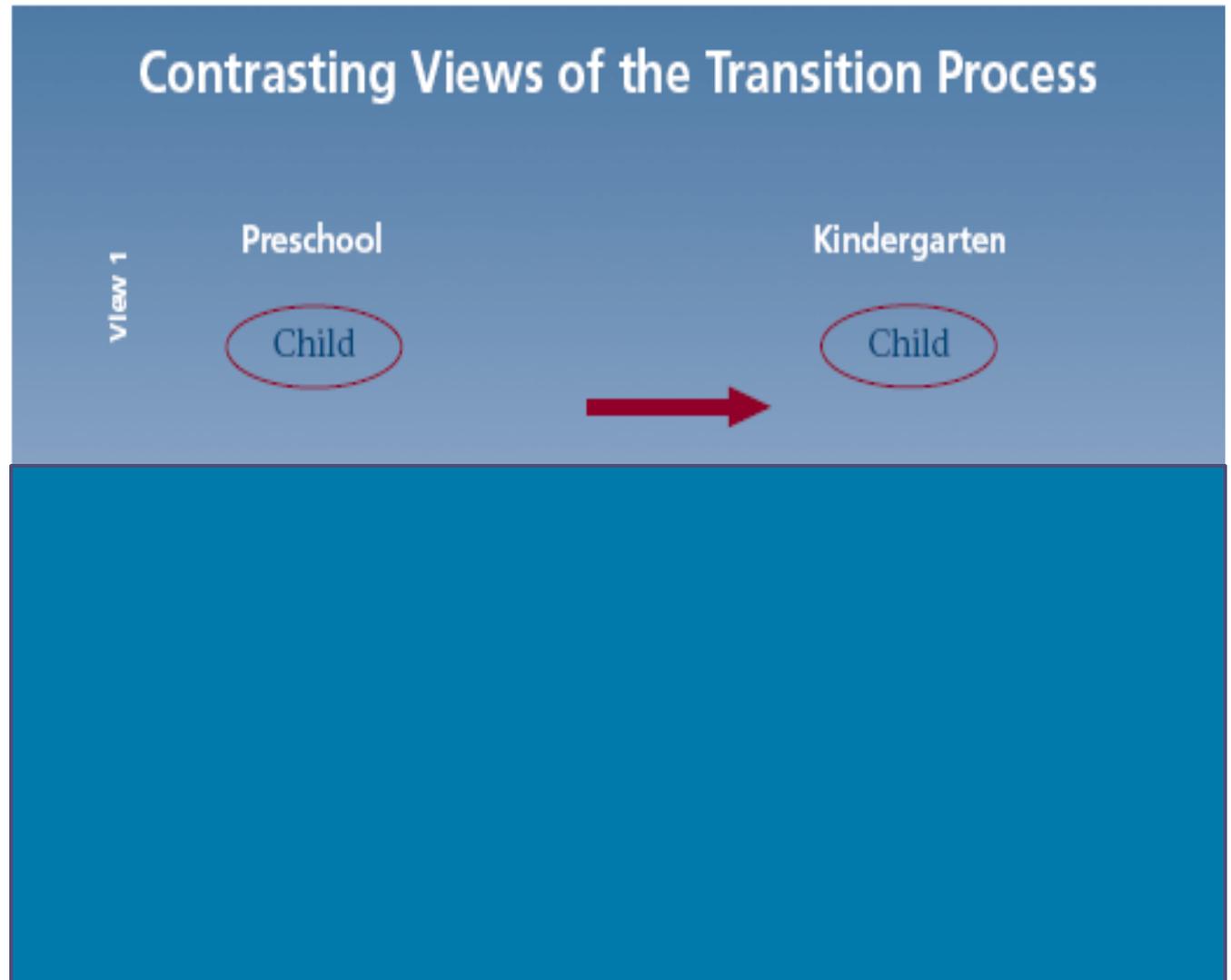




# Transition

What is it and why is it so important?

# Views on Transition



- National Center for Early Development and Learning

# Impact of Transition

	<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
<b>Well Transitioned and Supported Teacher/School</b>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Increased knowledge of the children and ability to meet their individual needs</li><li>2. Increased parental and community support</li><li>3. More resources and larger network of support</li><li>4. Awareness of early childhood and family support services available in the community</li><li>5. Professionalism and pride in their efforts to reach out to young children and their families</li></ol>
<b>Well Transitioned and Supported Community</b>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Healthier children and families</li><li>2. Children and families receiving support services faster</li><li>3. Increased amount of children ready for school</li><li>4. Increased number of students completing school</li></ol>

number of students completing school

# Path to School Success



## Enrollment

- Outreach

## Quality Kindergarten Transition

- Child to School
- Child to Child
- Parent to School
- Parent to Child
- Parent to Parent
- School to School
- School to Community

## Successful Start

- 1<sup>st</sup> Day Attendance
- Teacher-family partnership

## Success in School

- Engaged Parents
- Ongoing attendance
- Academic Success

# \*Note on Parent Engagement

## Growing and Sustaining Parent Engagement

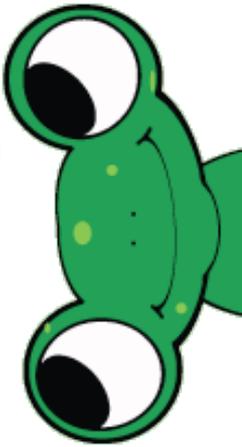
A Toolkit for Parents  
and Community Partners



COMMISSIONED BY FIRST 5 LA  
PREPARED BY THE  
CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL POLICY  
DECEMBER 2010

- Toolkit Overview
- Background on PE
- Sustaining and Improving PE
- Achieving Success: Guide for Creating Your Own Strategies
- Materials and Resources

# Enrollment: Did you know?



- Every year, Pittsburgh Public Schools struggles to ensure Kindergarten students are enrolled and attend the first day of school.

School	K Enrollment (June) 2010-2011
Lowest PPS Schools (9 of 33)	< 30 %
District Average	49 %
Intervention Schools	65 %

# PROBLEM STATEMENTS

## ◉ Nationally

- 48% of children struggle with the transition into Kindergarten
- Only 14 states mandate Kindergarten attendance

## ◉ Locally

- As many as 60% of entering Kindergarten students had not attended preschool
- 25% of Kindergarten students are enrolled and attend the first day of school
- School is NOT mandated until age 8

# SUCCESSFUL START: DID YOU KNOW?

- Being present the first day seems to matter
  - Children who were PRESENT on the first day of Kindergarten missed an average of **9 days** of Kindergarten
  - Children who were ABSENT on the first day of Kindergarten missed an average of **18 days** of Kindergarten
    - Northview ALA 2009-2010

# SUCCESS IN SCHOOL: DID YOU KNOW?

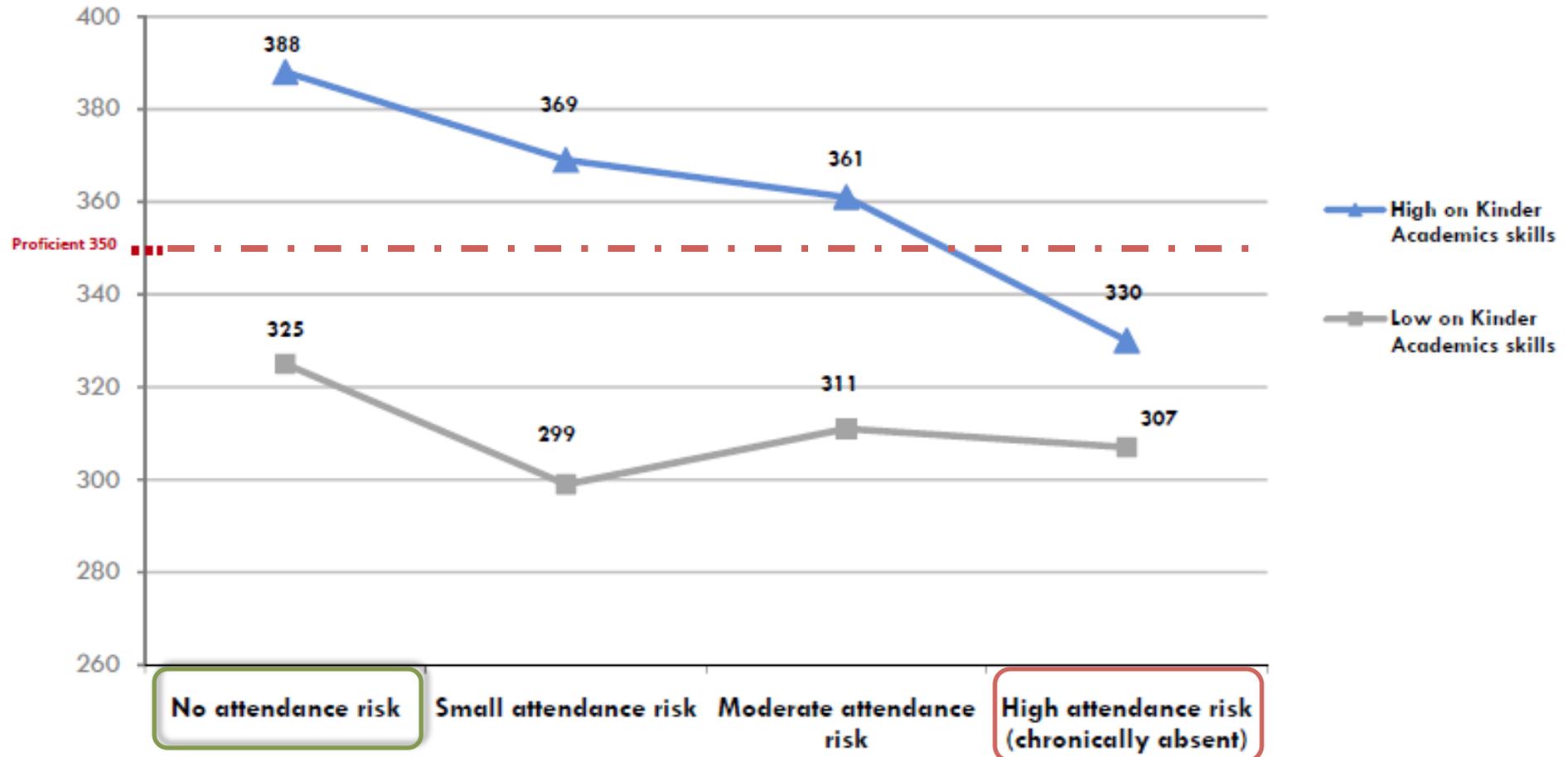
- ⦿ Nationally every year, one in 10 kindergarten and 1st grade students misses a month of school with excused and unexcused absences.
- ⦿ Of those chronically absent in Kindergarten, only 17% are reading at grade level in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.
- ⦿ Even when teachers take the roll daily, the data they collect is not typically analyzed to reveal chronic absence patterns.

• [www.attendanceworks.org](http://www.attendanceworks.org)



# Use it or Lose it

Third Grade ELA Test Scores, by K/1<sup>st</sup> Combined Attendance and Readiness Levels

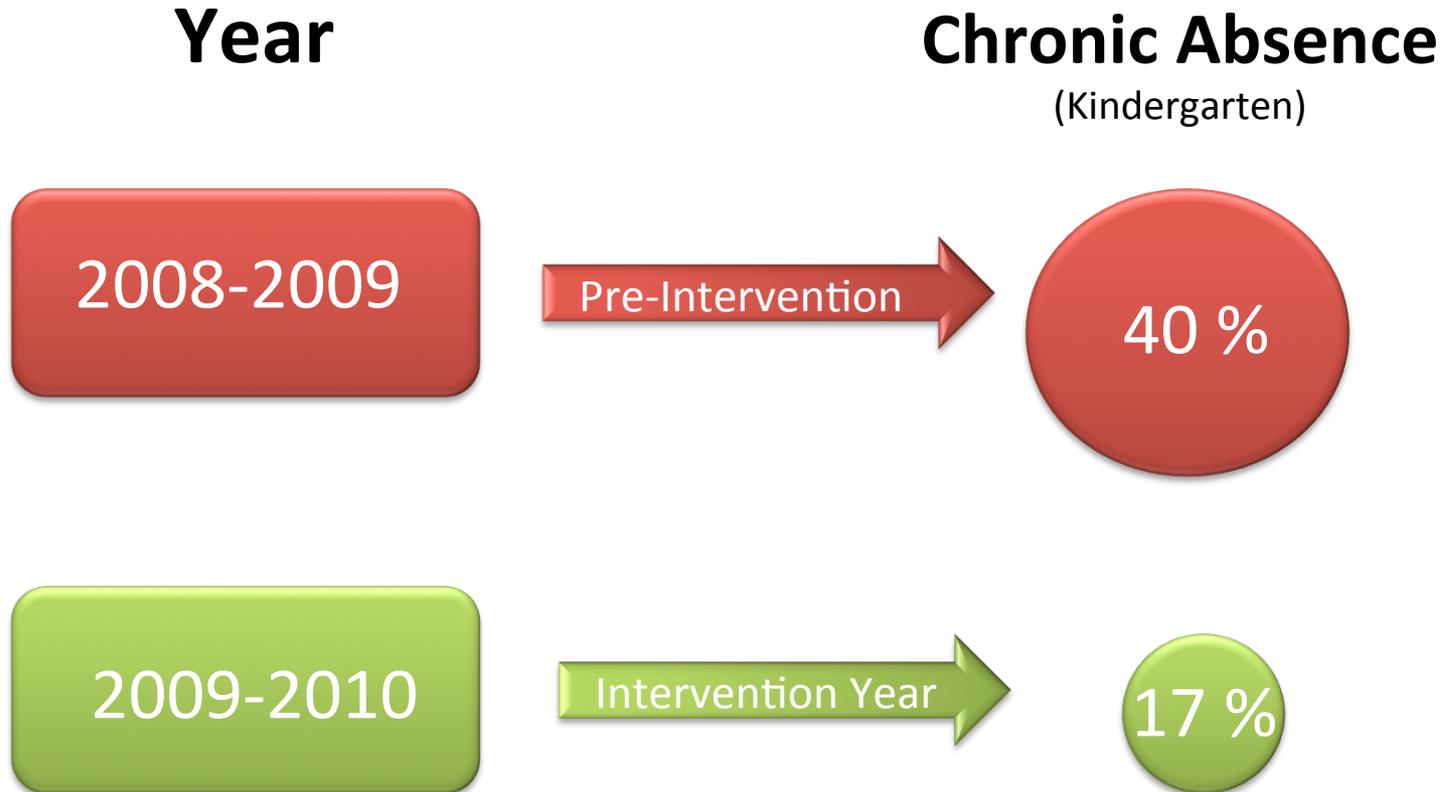


# Success in School: Measuring attendance

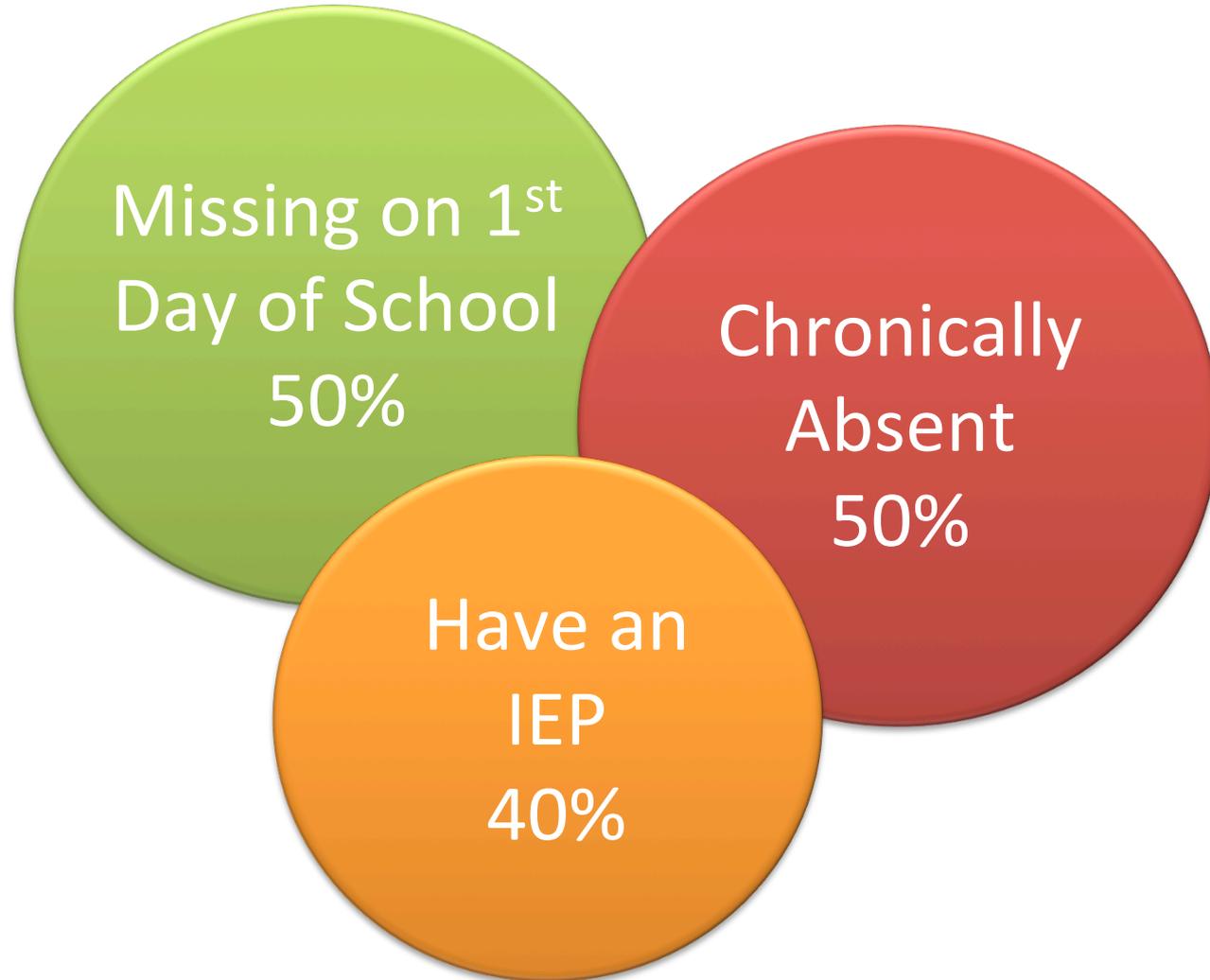
School	Student Daily Attendance	Chronic Absence (K)
5 Targeted Schools	90.6 %	40 % (14 of 35)
	92.1 %	?
	91.5 %	?
	89.5 %	?
	91.7 %	?
District	92.6 %	?

\*2008-2009 School Year

# Chronic Absence and PPS



# One K class... the challenges in first 2 months (2011)



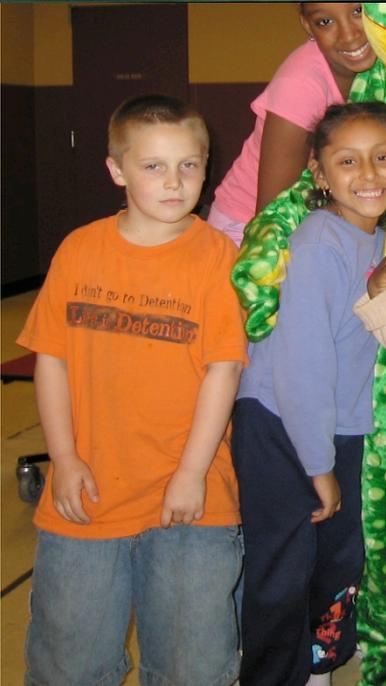
# WHY A FROG???

**ARE YOU  
READY  
FREDDY?**



# Ready Freddy Kindergarten Club

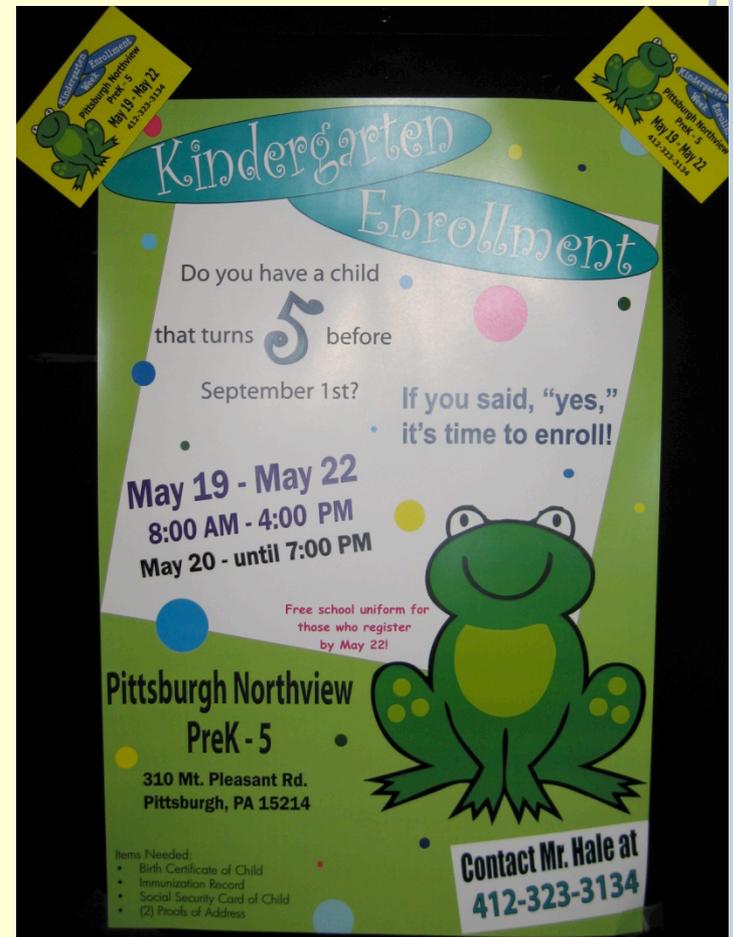
A Parent-Child Kindergarten Transition





# SPREAD THE WORD THROUGH PRINT

- *Displayed giant banner announcing the week*
- *Developed posters and flyers that were displayed in businesses and community agencies*
- *Had flyers put on every pizza box delivered by one local pizza shop*



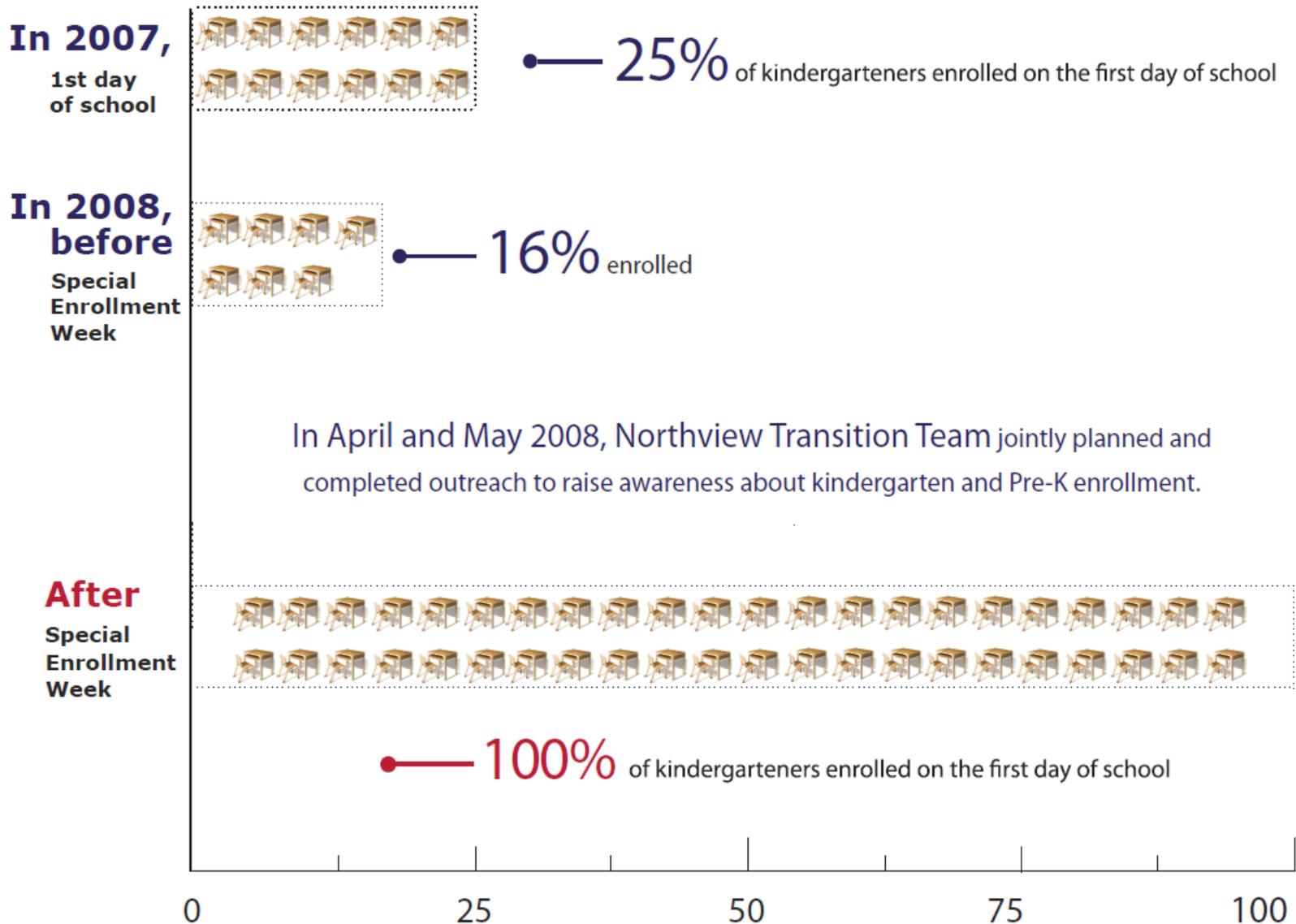
# AND PREPARED FOR WELCOME



- *New Welcome Signs*
- *Frog “footprints” directing to the office*



# School-Community-Parent Partnership Helped Increase School Enrollment at Northview ALA



# WHAT IS K-CLUB



- 6 Sessions (x2 hours)
  - Parent & Child
  - Parent role
  - Build supports
  - Child group experience
  - Literacy
  - Homework
- Relationship development





**FIRST IMPRESSIONS:  
CHANGING CRITICAL ENCOUNTERS**









ALD FREDDY  
NDEN WEN  
RAVSTIC  
AM

**Oh, Hoppy Day!!**



**Activities to  
promote healthy  
Kindergarten  
Transitions**

# COMMON TRANSITION ACTIVITIES

- Letter from teacher
- Tour of school
- Meet the teacher
- Meet the principal
- Tour classroom
- Kindergarten breakfast
- Summer Program



# LESS COMMON TRANSITION ACTIVITIES

- Letter from child to teacher
- Teacher home visits
- Community outreach (round up days)
- Invite ECE parents to PTO
- “All about me” books
- Newspaper listings of new K kids
- Community-wide Health-Screening/  
Service Fair
- Student-to-student events



# OTHER CREATIVE IDEAS

- Pen pals with Kindergarten class
- Transition folders on each child given to Kindergarten staff
- Parent Support/Transition Groups
- Create story/book about new school that parents can read with children
- Transition/Kindergarten book club
- Dramatic play activities/art projects to allow kids to explore feelings



Ken Smythe-Leistico



[leistico@pitt.edu](mailto:leistico@pitt.edu)



**(412)860-8425**



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KEEPING IN TOUCH