



**READY,
SET, GO!**

Moving Lives Forward.

A unique early childhood program engaging families & communities in new ways.

VISION: Families have access to a flexible, high quality early learning experience for their children to set the stage for life long success.



What makes Ready, Set, Go! (RSG) so unique? Why do we need it?

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT:

Brings the FAMILY into the classroom!

- Unlike other programs, families are active learning participants, alongside their children, 1-2 times per week. Families learn and play together and then transfer and reinforce those skills at home, dramatically increasing the opportunity for overall success.
- Families also have their own time with early childhood specialists to discuss their approaches to parenting and to explore challenges they face together.

EQUITABLE ACCESS:

High quality pre-school classrooms led by early learning professionals. In the context of a culturally responsive multi-service agency, MFS provides access for families who are on the waiting list for Head Start, and can't afford to enroll their children in private programs.

- All families are welcome at RSG.

CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE:

Staff and teaching strategies reflect the cultures of the participants.

- Culture and language is incorporated into our approach by engaging families as first teachers. At this time, all RSG programs have staff that are fluent in Spanish and English. Other languages / cultures represented on our team include Chinese, Vietnamese, French and Creole.

What do we accomplish?



79% of children participating in RSG scored at average or above on the state Get Ready to Read literacy assessment. **The majority of RSG children's primary language is not English.*



92% of the children showed improvement in developing social emotional skills as measured by the Child Behavior Rating Scale (*average score of 3.9 compared to state average 3.6*)



100% of parents reported improvement in family functioning per the Parenting Skills Ladder

How do we do it?

We have built RSG slowly since inception in 2006. The model is embedded in solid best practice elements combined with a spirit of community engagement and innovation. For example, the Children's Institute and United Way of the Columbia Willamette, in partnership with Multnomah County is supporting a pilot of RSG for children from birth to age 3 to respond to needs families expressed at Earl Boyles Elementary School in the David Douglas School District.



ACHIEVEMENT GAP

2016 Portland State University Longitudinal Study found that RSG virtually eliminated the achievement gap for students of color by the 3rd grade.

Data analysis conducted by PSU Regional Research Institute for Human Services
Marjorie McGee, PhD



RSG's Six Best Practices

1. FAMILY / CHILD INTERACTION GROUPS

Fosters deeper family involvement in their child's learning by inviting them to be active participants.

2. PARENTING EDUCATION

via Make Parenting a Pleasure curriculum

3. HOME VISITS AND / OR INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS

4. KINDERGARTEN READINESS WORKSHOPS

early literacy and social emotional development

5. FAMILY SUPPORT / STRENGTHENING

within the context of a multi-service agency, MFS offers Economic Empowerment Programs, referral to health and human services, and connections to advance adult learning

6. CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE

Cultural Responsiveness means:

Creating an environment of learning for families and young children with deep respect for culture, wisdom and strengths. RSG Classrooms and teaching strategies reflect the cultures of participating families.

It is a multigenerational approach where families become more successful advocates for their children's educational and social emotional success.

RSG Staff are chosen to reflect the culture and languages spoken in the surrounding neighborhood, and supporting staff are chosen to add language and cultural diversity whenever possible.

System Level Outcomes

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT AS PART OF CORE MODEL

When you visit Ready, Set, Go! you see that families are part of the classroom experience; they learn from educators who model and teach; family members work directly with their own children with coaching and support from our staff. This is effective and also efficient; meaning that a relatively small amount of program time creates impressive results. *This has implications for the direction of practice and policy in early childhood service delivery in our state.*

PARTICIPANTS ENGAGE WITH OTHER CULTURES

You also notice that many languages are spoken, and that children and families seek to learn new languages and cultural traditions from each other.

PARENTS AND OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS FIND THEIR VOICE

Families who never felt comfortable coming to schools are now active in community meetings, sharing their concerns and ideas with school administrators, School Boards and political leaders.

SOME FAMILY MEMBERS PURSUE A NEW CAREER IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

RSG has inspired a number of family members to go into the field of early childhood education; at the current time, five former RSG participants work on our MFS RSG team.

SCHOOL READINESS FOR CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL OR LEARNING DIFFERENCES

Educational School District specialists support RSG as an avenue to Kindergarten Readiness for children who need extra assistance due to developmental and learning challenges they experience. Kindergarten teachers are eager to accept all RSG students into their classrooms due to the preparation students have received, regardless of special needs children may have.

IN ADDITION:

100%

of RSG children receive early intervention development screening

30%

of RSG children screened were referred to critical early intervention services after developmental screening

WHAT'S NEXT?

Grow our success through reaching more families!

Engage investment in RSG from stakeholders that want RSG results in their communities. Grow RSG programs from 4 to 10 sites by 2021.



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