

Help Me Grow North Texas News

February 2022 Edition

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Reminders:

- Next Quarterly Subcommittee meetings will be held in March
- Follow us on social media (Facebook, Twitter, & Instagram) @HelpMeGrowNTX to stay up to date
- Help Me Grow North Texas marketing materials can be ordered [here](#).

Welcome to the new interns: Edward and Keyahnah!

Edward Baffoe is the AUCD state grant intern supporting training and communication efforts for statewide "*Learn the Signs. Act Early.*" utilization. Edward has a bachelor's in Psychology from the University of Ghana and a Clinical Psychology Masters from Millersville University of Pennsylvania. He is currently working on a PhD in Special Education with a focus on Autism and Developmental Disabilities at the University of North Texas. He has extensive experience working with individuals with autism.

Keyahnah Long is the Help Me Grow North Texas community outreach intern supporting marketing and communications. Keyahnah is working on her bachelor's in Human Development and Family Science from the University of North Texas. She is excited for her upcoming graduation in May and wedding in July. Keyahnah brings a wealth of experience in customer service and early education.

Family Success Story

Amanda's son was born early on in the lockdown in 2020. In the first year of her son's life, he had very limited exposure to the outside world. Around the age of 16 months, she started to get concerned that her son's speech was delayed. Amanda's mom encouraged her to reach out to Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) to see if her son could receive an evaluation to see where he was developmentally. Upon reaching out, she was connected to one of the Help Me Grow North Texas Family Navigators, Terri.

Amanda shared, "**Terri is a blessing!** I called and was connected to her. She was so helpful and comforting in walking me through all the questions and results. After the phone screening, she took her time to go over all the results with me. **She validated my concerns and feelings**, answered the million questions I had, and she was incredibly helpful and supportive of me advocating for my son. She connected with me on a personal level and made me feel at ease with the process! She consistently followed up to make sure my son was being scheduled for an evaluation, and didn't miss a beat in following up to see how the evaluation went. Although my son didn't qualify for ECI, she still called me to let me know that if I ever needed another evaluation to not hesitate in reaching out to Help Me Grow for assistance! Terri truly has the heart of a mother, and her guidance really helped me feel at peace with pursuing ECI.

The Family Navigators really helped calm her concerns about her son. She was a first time mom and had her son during in the midst of the pandemic which is really hard to judge what normal development is during that time. She wants other families to know that if they are thinking of contacting Help Me Grow North Texas to be an advocate for their child. "**The Navigators are willing to partner alongside you** and do not dismiss your concerns. It will help provide you peace of mind and equip you with the tools to nurture your child's development. **Thank you Terri, the therapists, and all of the staff that helped connect me with Help Me Grow North Texas.** I appreciate the time and care you provided for me and my son."



Pre-K Partnerships

Texas Workforce Commission Opportunities

The Texas Workforce Commission and Texas Education Agency are partnering together for pre-K partnerships where children can be dual enrolled to share resources between school districts and outside child care agencies. 25 positions are open to support this expanding program.

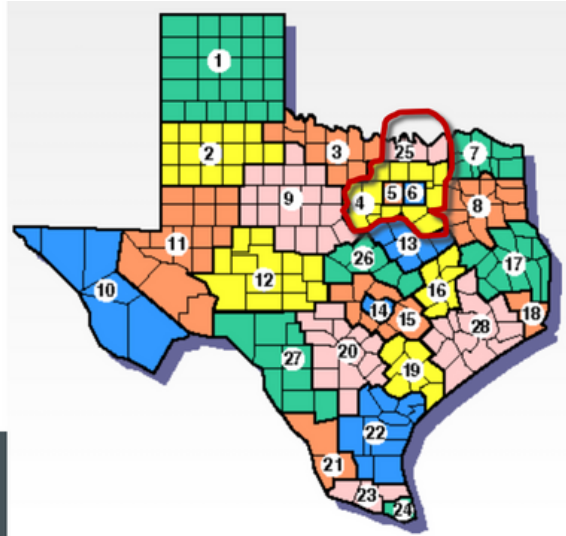
The Metroplex region covers local workforce development board regions 4, 5, 6, and 25



<https://youtu.be/YOY4fYWZyc>

source: twc.texas.gov

Pre-K Partnerships



The Metroplex region is comprised of Local Workforce Development Boards: 4-North Central, 5-Tarrant, 6-Dallas, 25-Texoma and Education Service Centers: Region 10-Richardson, Region 11-Fort Worth, and a portion of Region 12-Waco. The region will have 1 Regional Supervisor and 3 PreK Partnership Specialists.

Regional Supervisors: will provide support to PreK Partnership Specialists in developing partnerships within the regions by coordinating efforts with local Education Service Centers and Local Workforce Development Boards. Regional Supervisors will also provide feedback to TWC/TEA to assist with capacity and systems building for long-term sustainability of the partnerships.

Pre-K Partnership Specialists: will connect directly with school districts/charter schools and child care programs to inform them of partnership opportunities. Engagement will include matching potential partners, negotiating support, providing peer learning opportunities, and documenting efforts in a centralized data management system.

Potential candidates should have experience within the early childhood system: child care, public school, charter school, and/or public policy and research. For more information about PreK Partnerships, please email: prekpartnerships@twc.texas.gov

Programs to Support Early Education & Literacy in Dallas

Once Upon a Month, Vooks, and Childcare Assistance

March 2 is "Read Across America Day", a national day that focuses on early childhood literacy and teaching children to enjoy reading. In order of that focus, our partners at United Way Metropolitan Dallas wanted to share several specific early childhood education and literacy efforts that they are supporting across Dallas county.

Once Upon a Month allows children that qualify to receive a free book each month. Their parents will receive monthly tips as well to ensure they become successful readers.



Sign up today and receive a FREE book for your child each month!

Reading regularly with your child, starting at birth, affects critical brain development. Children who start kindergarten having had early reading experiences at home are happier and more successful students all through school.

- Designed for children, birth to five.
- Each book is specially chosen for your child's age and development level.
- Builds a lifelong love of books and reading.

Program

United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, Ferst Readers, and the Boone Family Foundation have partnered to create *Once Upon a Month*, a program that provides young children a free book each month. Along with the books, parents will receive monthly tips that offer easy ways for them to help their kids become successful readers.

Sign Up

Register at www.ferstreaders.org/Texas

To learn more about this program, contact Allison Janik, ajanik@unitedwaydallas.org or 214.978.2035.



A partnership of



Vooks is a one-year free virtual education streaming subscription for children ages 3 to 5 and early education teachers.



INSPIRE A LOVE OF READING

Education opens doors, broadens horizons and sets kids up for success. And reading is the gateway to education, starting from an early age. That's why United Way has partnered with Atmos Energy and Vooks, the leading streaming service for children's books, to inspire thousands of North Texas children with the love of reading.

Get your free 1-year Vooks subscription today!

Through this partnership, Vooks will provide access to a free, one-year subscription for children ages 3-5 and early education teachers. Learn more at UnitedWayDallas.org/Vooks



Building a Generation of Readers

Kids who enter school ready to learn are more likely to read proficiently by 3rd grade. And students that read on grade level by third grade are 5x more likely to graduate ready for success in college or career. By improving education today, we can impact our community's income and health for years to come.

Learning to Adapt

Teaching and learning look a little different this year. As we adapt to learning outside the classroom, sharing Vooks is a great way for parents to stay involved and improve reading for children. With Vooks, kids have access to reading and learning, wherever they are.

A Partnership of



CHILDCARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

United Way Southern Dallas Thrives Initiative



Residents that live within the city of Dallas, are enrolled in workforce development training or education, and are willing to provide proof of income may be able to qualify for up to six months of financial assistance per child to help ensure successful completion of the training or education programs.

For questions contact LaVonda Howell, Childcare Assistance Navigator with United Way of Metropolitan Dallas at lhowell@unitedwaydallas.org.