

# the literacy cooperative

## History

Through a collaborative effort of the Cleveland, George Gund, and Martha Holden Jennings Foundations, The Literacy Cooperative was established in 2006 as an oversight and coordinating entity to work on behalf of the community to improve literacy levels among children, youth, and adults in Greater Cleveland.

## Literacy Cooperative SPARK Part-

- \* The Abington Foundation
- \* The Cleveland Foundation
- \* George Gund Foundation
- \* Martha Holden Jennings Foundation
- \* PNC Foundation
- \* Sisters of Charity, Cleveland
- \* Stocker Foundation
- \* Third Federal Foundation
- \* United Way of Greater Cleveland
- \* Family Connections
- \* Invest in Children
- \* Cleveland, Maple Heights, and Cleveland Heights-University Heights School



SPARK program services are provided in partnership with Family Connections.

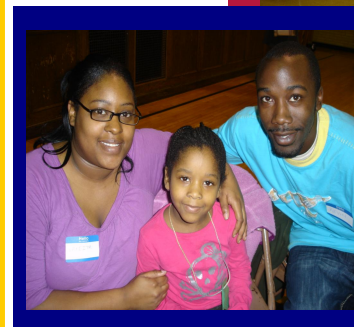
**For more information about SPARK, call Family Connections at 216-921-8021.**



SPARK program services are provided under the umbrella of Invest in Children, Cuyahoga County's public-private partnership serving young children and fami-



**Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids in Cuyahoga County**



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## About SPARK

- \* SPARK is a FREE home visiting program that helps three and four year old preschool children and their parents/caregivers learn and practice skills associated with kindergarten readiness.
- \* Once a month, a parent partner visits the family in the home and brings FREE books, a lesson plan, activities and supplies.
- \* SPARK Cuyahoga is part of SPARK Ohio.

## Lessons

- \* SPARK parent partners work with children and parents in their home during the year before kindergarten to help prepare children for school. The in-home tutoring program uses books that guide the child and parent through lessons that teach kindergarten skills.
- \* At each SPARK home visit, children and parents learn and practice skills to ensure kindergarten readiness.



## What Does SPARK Provide?

- \* Parent partners who work closely with children and families
- \* Developmental screenings for all children, follow-up assessments and individual therapies as needed
- \* Learning plans individualized to each child's specific needs
- \* Home and group visits with lesson plans based on Ohio's early learning content standards
- \* Developmentally appropriate FREE books with art supplies
- \* Transitional program to introduce children and families

## Why SPARK?

- \* Research shows that children who are not reading on grade level by the end of third grade usually fail to meet grade level expectations for reading in future years.\*
- \* The National Research Council has determined that academic success can be reasonably predicted by knowing someone's reading level at the end of third grade. \*\*
- \* Data shows SPARK children outperform their non-SPARK peers by scoring higher on the KRA-L (Kindergarten Readiness Assessment-Literacy) and third grade OAA (Ohio Achievement Assessment).
- \* SPARK addresses three primary objectives:
  - Ready Children: Prepare pre-school age children for kindergarten success
  - Ready Families: Encourage and teach families to serve as their child's first teacher

\* Francis, Shaywitz, Stuebing, Shaywitz & Fletcher, 1996

\*\* A Kid Counts Special Report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2010