



ELA Kindergarten Readiness Fact Sheet July 17, 2020

About the Kindergarten readiness survey

- In Fall 2019, [ELA commissioned a study](#) of 104 Kindergarten teachers and school administrators in 11 Tarrant County school districts to determine what experiences preschoolers need to be considered Kindergarten-ready.
- Based on the survey results, Kindergarten teachers said a child's social, emotional and physical health and well-being are the most important areas needed for them to become learners.
- The top four items ranked by survey participants were:
 - Participates safely in activities (100%)
 - Communicates needs for assistance (100%)
 - Manages personal needs independently (97%)
 - Is rested and well-fed (96%)

About children's play and learning*

- Play has been shown to have a direct effect on children's language development, executive function, math and spatial skills, scientific thinking and social/emotional development
- Learning occurs best when children are mentally active, engaged, socially interactive (with teachers or peers) and building meaningful connections to their lives.

About food insecurity and learning

- The state of Texas has the second highest number of hungry children in the U.S.**
- Tarrant County is one of 10 U.S. counties with the highest number of hungry people.**
- By Kindergarten, food insecure children are behind their peers in terms of cognitive, emotional and physical development.***

About racial bias and learning

- Black children represent 19 percent of preschool enrollment, but almost half (47 percent) of the out-of-school preschool suspensions. By comparison, white children represent 41 percent of preschool enrollment but just 28 percent of suspensions.****
- When Black and white teachers evaluate the same Black student, white teachers are 12 percent less likely to predict the student will finish high school, and 30 percent less likely to predict the student will graduate from college.*****

About ELA

- Founded in 2016, the [Early Learning Alliance](#) is a collaboration of over 50 organizations working together to help Tarrant County children achieve success in school and in life.

*[The Case of Brain Science and Guided Play: A Developing Story; Young Children \(May 2017\)](#)

**[Tarrant Area Food Bank Fact Sheet \(2020\)](#)

*** [Too Hungry To Learn: Food Insecurity and School Readiness, Children's Health Watch Research Brief](#)

**** U.S. Department of Education (2013-14)

***** [Economics of Education Review \(2016\)](#)