



## The Situation In Maricopa County



**Less than half of children in poverty are school ready by age 5**



- 90% of a child's brain develops in the first 5 years of a child's life.
- Children that do not attend quality centers may not have the same educational opportunities as their peers, putting them at risk for falling behind.
- For kids who aren't school ready, going to kindergarten can be a struggle.

## The Solution: School Readiness

We support every child's right to quality learning activities and experiences, no matter where they get their care. We organize convenient training for families and caregivers on early learning and other important education factors. We also partner with care centers in our community to provide the training and materials they need to meet indicators of a quality center, with a focus on centers and shelters in low income neighborhoods to serve unique populations.



**"Every resource, every tip is so helpful. It has helped me to be a better mom."**

- Katie





## Giving local kids the right start

### Our Impact

- 38,281 kids have access to a high quality and early learning environments
- 11,823 school readiness kits given to parents and caregivers

### Our Goal

- 61% of centers have a rating of 3 or higher
- 70% of all children in the programs meeting all developmental milestones

## How Can I Help?



### Provide School Readiness Kits

School Readiness Kits are designed by education experts for kids ages 3 to 5 to make it easy to incorporate learning into a family's daily routine. They feature more than 80 activities on a variety of topics that will be helpful for children to know before entering kindergarten. Topics include language, reading, math, science and social studies. Families will also receive a journal for kids to practice writing bilingual books to build language and literacy and information for parents on things like health, safety, and social and emotional development.



### Support a Center

With your help, kids will be able to get access to the learning opportunities and care center experiences that they may not have had otherwise, helping them keep up with their future peers when they enter school. Your generous gift will provide centers with the materials they need to give local kids high quality care and attention.

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Book-in-a-Bag

Team-up with coworkers, friends and family to create Book-in-a-Bags by filling a paper lunch bag with a child friendly book, reading tips for parents and more. Then bring it to life by decorating the bag with your favorite characters and words of inspiration. This unique volunteer project builds home libraries for local kids.

Visit [vsuw.org/volunteer](https://vsuw.org/volunteer) to learn more.



Contact us at [info@vsuw.org](mailto:info@vsuw.org) to get started!

