



FIRST 10 COMMUNITY SCHOOL PILOT SUMMER 2023 TO FALL 2025

What We Set Out to Do and Why

Seven grants were awarded to SAUs and their community partners to implement a two-generational model to ensure that all children learn and thrive. With the support of facilitators from Education Development Center, First 10 Teams implemented strategies to support the transition into school, provide caregiver education, ensure family access to comprehensive services, and increase the coordination of systems serving children and families prenatal to 3rd grade. The pilot set out to explore the benefit of a dedicated First 10 Coordinator at the local level, and a First 10 Specialist to provide support at the state level.

SANFORD
PRIDE

LIMESTONE/
CASWELL

GREATER
BELFAST

MSAD/RSU 54
RIVER
HAWKS

CAPE COD
HILL
RSU 9

WISCASSET
ELEMENTARY

DEER ISLE-
STONNINGTON & SEDGWICK

Moments That Mattered



Play and Learn events brought children and families together for shared learning, access to resources, and social connection. Events were held in schools, community locations, and virtually to reach as many families as possible. Caregiver education was based on the 5 Basics strategies. Teams provided ongoing ideas and support through newsletters, social media posts, and print resources.

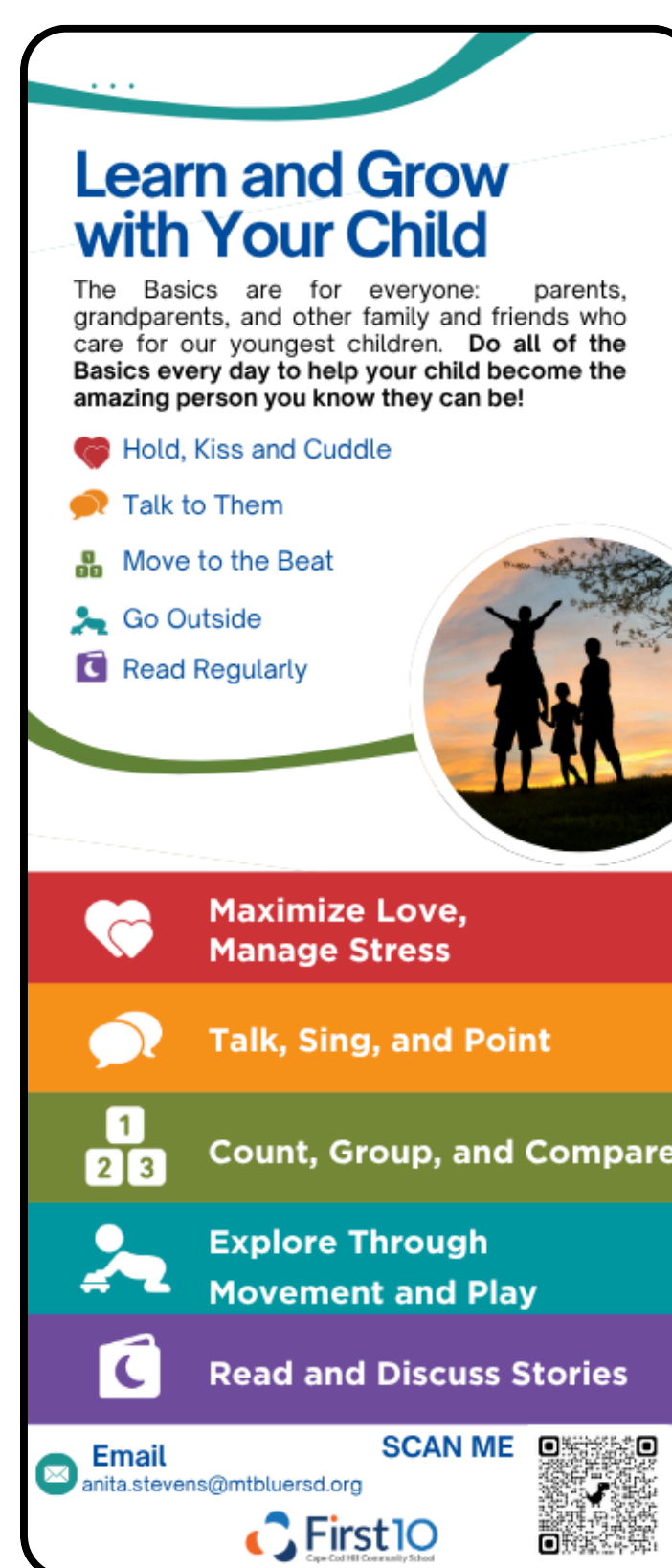


Collaboration with community partners and having a presence at community events allowed teams to share resources and information about their First 10 efforts



Joint professional learning opportunities hosted in the communities brought school and community-based ECE providers together, strengthening the ECE system.

A CoP for First 10 Coordinators and an annual First 10 Summer Institute provided training and an opportunity for collaboration and networking to First 10 teams across Maine.



Several teams provided families with access to The Basics or Parent Powered parenting App



First 10 bookmarks and book bins helped Teams connect with community ECE providers and were a beneficial piece of the transition to Kindergarten Plans developed in each community.



Transition plans included several events that provided children and families the opportunity to get to know the school, the staff and each other. Schools began their registration process earlier which helped with planning and ensuring that all children had needed supports.

Each community developed a resource guide to support access to comprehensive services. Sanford has had over 600 unique visitors, with a spike of 140 new visitors in October.



Impact and Reach

- 7 SAUs
- 10 Elemeantry Schools
- 16 Community Partners
- 34 Community Collaborations
- 120 Play & Learn events
- Participation in 32 Community events
- 195 Families subscribed to one of the parenting apps

What We Learned

- Approach needs to be tailored for each community based on family feedback
- Coordinator role is critical in supporting access to comprehensive supports and building relationships with families and the community
- Buidling trust and engagement takes time
- We must meet families where they are
- Community partners are willing to support this work with time, talent, and funding

Sustainability

- 4 SAUs have included the Coordinator position in their school budget
- 6 SAUs plan to continue the transition plan developed and extend it to include Pre-K
- 5 SAUs plan to continue Play & Learns on at least a monthly basis
- 6 SAUs will continue to promote The Basics to their 0-5 families