

**THE UNIQUE BENEFITS OF  
THE 4K COMMUNITY APPROACH  
OR  
54 REASONS TO IMPLEMENT THE 4K COMMUNITY  
APPROACH**

**Unique Benefits of the 4K Community Approach for Children**

1. With the 4K Community Approach, children who need care for the hours when they are not in the 4K program can remain in one location for both 4K and child care thereby reducing the stress of transitions and of being away from home.
2. The 4K Community Approach enables young children to attend four-year-old kindergarten in a familiar facility with consistent rules, routines, and expectations.
3. The physical environment at the 4K Community Approach sites are usually specifically designed for children younger than six-years-old.
4. The 4K Community Approach program has significantly increased the ability of communities to provide inclusive settings for four-year-old children with special needs.
5. The 4K Community Approach program is beneficial to children with special needs in many different ways.
6. The 4K Community Approach program makes transitions easier for three-year-olds when they enter four-year-old kindergarten.
7. In the 4K Community Approach program, literacy specialists may be available to work one-on-one with children and assist staff on literacy-related issues.
8. In the 4K Community Approach program, children who are English Language Learners (ELL) may have access to translators and support teachers in their community based program.
9. In the 4K Community Approach program, children benefit from information shared between the 4K teachers, the early childhood staff, and the public schools.
10. In the 4K Community Approach program, children who need therapy can receive their therapy without having to leave their early childhood facility.
11. The 4K Community Approach program increases the likelihood that an infant, toddler, or preschooler with a delay or disability will be referred for an evaluation and early intervention services.

## **Unique benefits of the 4K Community Approach for Families**

12. Having 4K and the early childhood program in the same location increases the likelihood that a child of working parents can attend four year old kindergarten.
13. The 4K Community Approach program offers families the opportunity to select the 4K program location and schedule that best meets their family's needs.
14. Having 4K and early childhood programs in the same location reduces the stress for parents who are both working and caring for a young child.
15. Parents with more than one child under the age of 5 can have all their preschool children in the same location.
16. Parents who were hesitant to send their child to 4K in the public schools are more comfortable sending their child to a community-based program.
17. It is more reassuring for parents who have previously had their child in an early childhood program to now utilize 4K in the same learning environment.
18. Families who might not have been able to find a child care program to accept their child with special needs now have access to full-time care at a community child care program.
19. Parents of children with special needs benefit from learning that their child can successfully function in an inclusive 4K program in a community setting.
20. The 4K Community Approach program can provide financial benefits to families.
21. The 4K Community Approach increases parents' knowledge of child development and their understanding of their own child.
22. The 4K Community Approach program increases opportunities for families to participate in community programs and their familiarity with community resources.
23. In some community programs, the 4K Community Approach provides children and families with recreational opportunities they otherwise would not have.
24. Teachers and translators from the school district can work with English Language Learner (ELL) children and their parents in the community programs.
25. The 4K Community Approach program allows communities to merge Head Start, Special Education services, and 4K into one program at multiple school sites.

## **Unique benefits of the 4K Community Approach for Child Care and Early Childhood Education Programs**

26. The 4K Community Approach program has provided community child care and early childhood education programs with professional development opportunities.
27. The 4K Community Approach program implicitly encourages some staff to return to school and/or improve their skills and qualifications.
28. Curriculum and resources used by the school district are more easily shared and utilized by the child care and early childhood education programs.
29. The 4K Community Approach program improves the quality of the child care and early childhood education programs for all children instead of just benefiting the children in the four-year-old kindergarten programs.
30. The 4K Community Approach program can improve the salary and benefits for all staff at the community sites.
31. The 4K Community Approach program provides community sites easier access to school district services.
32. The 4K Community Approach helps child care and early childhood education programs maintain or increase their enrollment.
33. The 4K Community Approach program provides many financial benefits for child care programs, which typically face considerable fiscal challenges.
34. The 4K Community Approach program can increase the diversity of children enrolled in community programs.
35. The 4K Community Approach program has prompted more interaction, collaboration, and cost sharing among community child care and early childhood education programs.
36. Child care programs can improve their image and increase their visibility in their communities as a result of being participants in the 4K Community Approach program.

### **Unique benefits of the 4K Community Approach for School Districts**

37. The 4K Community Approach strengthens the school districts ability to plan for the entrance of young children into the public schools.
38. The 4K Community Approach improves the preparation of young children for entrance into the public schools.
39. The 4K Community Approach program increases the contact school districts have with parents of young children.
40. The 4K Community Approach program helps school districts gain a better understanding of the needs and challenges of the early childhood programs in their community.
41. The 4K Community Approach program improves the image of school districts in their communities.
42. With 4K Community Approach, by using the space and resources available in the community programs, the school district can more efficiently use public funds.
43. Transportation costs for the school district can be reduced by having four-year-old kindergarten located in community sites.
44. As a result of 4K Community Approach programs, special services are more accessible and provided earlier.
45. The flexibility in program design provided by 4K Community Approach enables school districts to design unique programs to best meet the needs of their community.

## **Unique Benefits of the 4K Community Approach for the General Public**

46. Everyone benefits when different programs meet to discuss what works best in their community. By collaborating, communities avoid one size fits all solutions and instead develop programs that fit the unique needs of their individual community.
47. The overall quality of early childhood programs has improved in communities implementing the 4K Community Approach.
48. The 4K Community Approach program provides a level of services which would be impossible for any one agency to provide in isolation.
49. Through the 4K Community Approach collaboration, businesses and other community organizations have partnered with programs serving young children to provide products and services to families. This helps to build more cohesive communities.
50. Parents may pay less for child care and therefore have more money available to spend in their communities.
51. Employers benefit from working parents having their children receive care and education in one location.
52. The 4K Community Approach program helps the general public to develop more respect and appreciation for the importance of early childhood education
53. Having care and education programs in one setting provides parents, educators, care providers, and community social service agencies the opportunity to communicate more easily with each other to support the needs of children and families.
54. The partnership between the school district, 4K sites, and other community programs who work with children and families builds strong and important links among these entities that benefit the entire community.