

Strategic Plan: Executive Summary



FY24–FY26

Results Based Accountability (RBA)

→ A disciplined way of thinking and taking action used by communities to improve the lives of children, families and the community as a whole. Think Small is using RBA as a framework to accomplish our strategic plan.

Population-Level Result

→ All children will be ready for kindergarten.

Population-Level Indicator

→ All children in the seven-county metro have access to quality early care and education programs.

Proxy-Level Indicator Data Points

- Number and percent of quality early care and education programs in the seven-county metro.
- Number and percent of children in quality early care and education programs in the seven-county metro.

Kindergarten Readiness

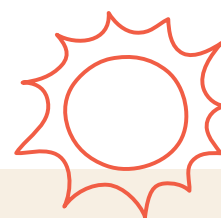
→ Think Small defines kindergarten readiness as the successful demonstration of progress across the 9 developmental domains as described in Minnesota's Early Indicator of Progress at kindergarten entry.

Dosage

→ Think Small is working towards creating quality, full-day, full-year programs that are available to children, birth to 5 years old.

Equity

→ To support the full potential for every child, Think Small commits to championing policies and practices of equity that empower a just, inclusive, and equitable care and education system for children in their crucial early years.



Think Small understands we will not be able to reach our population-level result of all children being prepared for kindergarten by ourselves.

Therefore, we have identified partners to work with us in each of our strategy plans. Our current partners include early childhood providers; school districts; state agencies; policymakers; researchers; promise neighborhoods; other nonprofits working in the field of early childhood, education, health, human services and homelessness. This list will grow as we develop our work and invite others to share our population-level result of all children being ready for kindergarten.

Strategy Areas

Quality Early Care and Education

Result: Increase and retain the number and percentage of licensed family child care and child care center programs participating in Parent Aware in the seven-county metro area to meet the needs of families.

Access to Early Care and Education

Result: Increase and retain the number of slots and jobs in licensed family child care and child care center programs in the seven-county metro area to meet the needs of families while fully optimizing all financial assistance funds Think Small administers in Hennepin and Ramsey counties.

Early Care and Education Policy and Advocacy

Result: Create and change legislative and administrative policies to support increases in access to quality early learning opportunities that meet the needs of families and increase the number of quality slots and jobs.

