

# Early Learn Environment WG Agenda

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4/7/2026

## Welcome

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Attendees: Vanessa Vargas, Jane DiFortuna, Joan Fisher, Charlene Gordon, Angela Schwartz, Claribel Medrano, Diana Jaquez, L. Sciacca, Maryalice Fegely, Kerry McCloskey, Simone Taylor, Jami Kilichowski

## Early Learn Environment Web Page Discussion

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- ELE WG page - Will continue to exist in a member access section on the new website
  - Will include the meeting minutes, etc.
- Title blurb:
  - Common agenda blurb: *“Fostering supportive learning environments that enable children of all ages to succeed overall”*
    - Had the most votes overall
  - Charlene’s suggestion: *“We want to provide an early start to educating learning opportunities for younger ones. Studies have shown that an early start guarantees future success.”*
  - Kerry’s suggestion: *“Fostering supportive learning environments that are vital to a young mind's cognitive development and future academic success.”*
- First Paragraph:
  - *A child’s early years lay the foundation for lifelong learning. Children with access to early learning opportunities are shown to have an increase in cognitive and socio-emotional ability, which translates to more outcomes. In addition, when entering school, young children need parents and/or caregivers who advocate for them to ensure they receive the appropriate services and supports.*
    - Instead of more outcomes – change to improved or better outcomes
    - Change socio-emotional to social emotional
    - [check recording for Kerry's suggestion]

- Keep school readiness
- *It is the ultimate goal of the Staten Island Alliance to help parents and school staff create supportive learning environments that enable children of all ages to succeed academically. To date, the Early Learning Environments Working Group has sought to:*
  - **Increase the access and utilization of summer and early learning opportunities for young children in the North Shore**
  - **Advocate for children to ensure they are receiving the appropriate services and supports**
  - **Provide training opportunities for school stakeholders to enhance program quality and community engagement**
    - Overall goal still makes sense
- Strategies / Take Action:
  - List the activities that we facilitate rather than what is listed in this section currently
- What is missing / What's to come on the page?
  - Photo of the WG members
  - List of the stakeholders/members - Just the organization name
  - Link to activity pages
    - These pages will have all the information surrounding the activity, along with photos, videos and data

## Discussion

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- Annual Event Pt. 2
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> floor exhibit is closing in June. Ribbon cutting is not until October.
  - Will have a bouncy house – will be outside
    - SIA table sign up table outside under a tent
  - Indoor Event
  - Tentative date: August 1, 2026
  - Vendors to invite:
    - Speak to MetroPlus about face painting
    - Reach out to Bubbles the clown for Zumba
    - Vendors w/ enrichment programs
    - NYC Parks to do activities outside with the kids
  - Look into sponsorships to provide lunch for the vendors
    - Community delis, pizzerias, etc.

- Transitioning Activities
  - In Process Confirmations: PS 74, PS 10, PS 18 (combo w/ UFT event), PS 44
  - End of August – Beginning of September 2026
  - Head Start – reached out about possible ‘Getting Ready for Kindergarten’ activity for their families / program
    - Vanessa is speaking to Kim (Cassidy Pl Head Start) next week
      - Invite Kim to May ELE meeting
    - Partners should begin thinking about what a Head Start program would look like
    - Will discuss further at next meeting
    - Could lead to partnership with EL programs and District schools
    - QUALITYstarsNY works with SI Head Start – will be able to provide support

## Closing

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- Next Meeting: May 12, 2026 – Hybrid @ UNECE