



# Learning Together

## Impact Report

School Year 2025-2026

Inclusive Early Childhood Education



# A Message from the Executive Director

When I think about Learning Together, I think first about the children and families who walk through our doors each day. I think about the joy, the challenges, the small victories, and the big milestones. Most of all, I think about what is possible when children are truly welcomed, supported, and given the opportunity to learn together.

This past year has brought growth and change to Learning Together, but one thing has remained constant: our commitment to children and families. Our teachers, therapists, staff, families, and community partners show up every day with a shared belief that every child belongs and that every child has something important to contribute.

The numbers in this report tell part of our story. They tell us how many meals we served, how many children and families we served, the hours of therapy children received, and the progress children made as they prepared for kindergarten. But behind every number is a child with their own personality, strengths, hopes, and dreams—and a family who has trusted us to be part of their journey.

After 17 years with Learning Together, stepping into the role of Executive Director is deeply meaningful to me. I am grateful for the many people who have built this organization over more than five decades and for those who continue to believe in what we can accomplish together. I am proud of where we are today, and I am excited about where we are going.

Thank you to our families, staff, volunteers, Board, community partners, and supporters for believing in Learning Together. Your partnership makes it possible for us to continue creating a place where every child belongs, every family has a voice, and every child has the opportunity to thrive.

With gratitude,

Jan Baker, Executive Director



# A Message from the Board President

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am proud to share the remarkable impact Learning Together has made during the 2025-2026 school year. Every day, our organization demonstrates the transformational power of inclusive early childhood education, ensuring that children of all abilities have the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive together.

This year, Learning Together served over 100 children from 90 families, providing a nurturing environment where children with and without developmental delays learn side by side. Through more than 2,000 hours of on-site therapy services, family support programs, and nutritious meals provided at no cost to families, we continued our commitment to removing barriers and creating opportunities for success.

One of our proudest achievements was helping every graduating child transition to kindergarten on the Standard Course of Study, a testament to the dedication of our educators, therapists, staff, families, and community partners. Together, we are building stronger foundations for lifelong learning and empowering families to navigate their children's educational journeys with confidence.

None of this would be possible without the generosity of our donors, volunteers, advocates, and supporters. Your investment in Learning Together creates lasting impact, not only for the children we serve today but for the future of our entire community. Thank you for believing in our mission and helping us ensure that every child has the opportunity to reach their fullest potential.

With gratitude,

Joe Howison, Board President



# Our Mission and Values

## OUR MISSION

Our certified developmental day center and community of resources empower children with and without developmental delays and their families with the tools and skills essential for a life of learning and success.

## VISION

We envision a future where every child has access to equitable, high-quality education, families are empowered to thrive, and communities unite to foster lifelong learning.

## VALUES

**Safety:** We cultivate safe, supportive environments through intentional practices rooted in respect, professionalism, and compassion.

**Inclusion:** We champion full inclusion by elevating lived experiences, building supportive teams, and welcoming partners who share our commitment to early childhood education.

**Diversity:** We celebrate and reflect the diversity of our communities through inclusive practices, equitable opportunities, and meaningful partnerships that support all learners and families.

**Equity:** We advance equity by championing policies, funding, and systems that ensure all children and families have access to high-quality early childhood education and support services.

**Advocacy:** We leverage our voice, experience, and partnerships to shape a future where every child and family can access high-quality early childhood education and support.



# Children Served



During the 2025–26 school year, Learning Together served 108 unique children from 90 families.



70% of families received some sort of tuition assistance.



Among children with developmental delays served by Learning Together, 55% also lived in low-income households



58% of the children served (63 children) were between 18 months and 5 years old and had identified developmental delays.



48% of the children served (52 children) were age 3 or older, had identified developmental delays, and had an Individualized Education Program (IEP) through Wake County Public School System.



# Support that Helps Children Thrive



## Therapy and Developmental Support

100%

of children served through our Wake County Public School System contract engaged in on-site speech, occupational, and physical therapy, totaling more than 2,000 hours of therapy provided at no cost to parents.

100%

of graduating children (17 children) entered kindergarten on the Standard Course of Study.



## Therapy and Enrichment Programs

Speech, occupational, and physical therapy services are provided through contracted therapists who work directly within our classrooms alongside teachers and children. Services include both direct therapy and supplemental classroom support, helping children access learning, participate fully, and build the skills they need to thrive.



## Nutrition Without Added Cost

53,000  
meals  
served

Breakfast, lunch, and snacks are provided at no cost to families. Individual Nutrition Care Plans are developed for each child who has a unique feeding need, food allergy, dietary preference or other modifications for meals.

Our food program helps ensure children have access to nutritious meals and snacks throughout the day. This year, we served more than 53,000 meals and snacks to the children in our care.



# Together, We Invest in Children, Families, and a Stronger Community

We partner with families to help them navigate their child’s developmental, educational, and community needs. Our Family Support Services provide individualized guidance, advocacy, and navigation through the individualized Education Program (IEP) process and the transition to kindergarten.

Throughout the year, families have opportunities to connect, learn, and build relationships through Family School Partnership Days, parent workshops, home visits, and school-wide celebrations. These services strengthen family engagement and help families feel informed, supported, and empowered as they advocate for their children.



**23%**

families were single-parent households, with all but one headed by mothers.



**15%**

of families had two or more children enrolled at Learning Together, enabling children with developmental delays to attend school alongside their typically developing siblings.

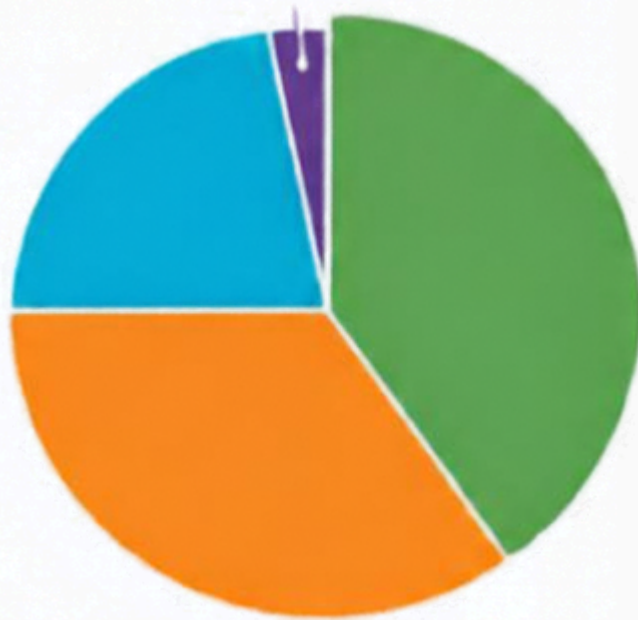


# Our Financial Snapshot

FISCAL YEAR 2025 - 2026 | ACTUALS

## Total Revenue

\$1,666,768



|                                                                                     |                                                                              |            |     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----|
|  | Government Funding (WCPSS, DHHS)                                             | \$ 716,295 | 43% |
|  | Private Tuition                                                              | \$ 592,422 | 36% |
|  | Fundraising (grants, foundations, donors, corporations, major gifts, events) | \$ 315,889 | 19% |
|  | Miscellaneous Revenue                                                        | \$ 42,162  | 2%  |

Your support helps us create inclusive, high-quality learning experiences for every child.

## Total Expenses

\$1,675,894



|                                                                                       |                                                                                                             |              |     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----|
|  | Programmatic Expenses (salaries, benefits, payroll taxes, therapy, food & nutrition, programmatic supplies) | \$ 1,481,750 | 88% |
|  | Operations & Administration (rent, insurance, consultants, marketing, other)                                | \$ 194,144   | 12% |

Together, we invest in children, families and a stronger community.

# Our Community of Supporters

Together, our supporters contributed \$114,639.49 during the 2025-2026 giving year, helping create inclusive, high-quality learning experiences for every child.

Gift timeframe: 7/1/2025-6/30/2026

Gift types: donations, pledges, and matching payments.



## Presidents Circle

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Benefactor | The Afarian Family<br>Catharine B. Arrowood<br>Karen Olander                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Champion   | Randi Ligon<br>Paul Neal<br>Brendan Walsh                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Advocate   | Priscilla Awkard<br>Frances Bobbie<br>The Briley Family<br>Amanda Clayton<br>Cody Forness<br>The Hagan Family<br>Josh Hernandez & Zach Pless<br>The Iddings Family<br>Diane Schabinger<br>Jan Baker<br>Nell Barnes<br>Kathy Peterson<br>Anonymous |

## Corporate and Foundations

**\$5,000.00 and more**

ChildTrust Foundation  
Cisco Technology Inkind Grant  
Coastal Credit Foundation  
Enact Foundation  
Health Lit4Wake Wake Co Mini Grant  
John Rex Endowment  
Lonnie & Carol Poole Family Foundation  
PNC Grow Up Great  
Raleigh Kiwanis  
TELUS NC Community Board Grant

## 2025-2026 Board of Directors

Randi Ligon, Board President  
Joe Howison, Board Treasurer  
Nicole Walsh, Board Secretary  
Priscilla Awkard  
Mary Briley  
Alex Carter

