



SPARK SUPPORTING PARTNERSHIPS TO ASSURE READY KIDST<sup>™</sup> began as a collaboration between the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton. Working with numerous foundations, community organizations, and school districts, the program continues to expand.

- SPARK Ohio works with children, families, schools, and the community to ensure that children are ready for school and schools are ready for families.
- SPARK Ohio is a family-focused intervention program designed to prepare children for kindergarten by helping families help their children succeed in school.
- SPARK Ohio engages participating families in structured lesson plans and activities aligned with Ohio's Early Learning Content Standards, administers developmental assessments and screenings, and initiates referrals to needed community resources.
- SPARK Ohio parent partners deliver monthly home- and group-based services to families of preschool-aged children.
- SPARK Ohio and schools work collaboratively to ensure that children experience smooth transitions into school.



SPARK begins in Stark County

2005

SPARK expands into Alliance

2008

SPARK Trumbull begins serving families

2008

Spring 2010

SPARK Hamilton begins serving families

SPARK Cuyahoga, Mahoning & Massillon begin serving families

Fall 2010

2003

The program begins in Canton (large urban area) and Minerva (rural area)

The first SPARK children enter kindergarten

2007

SPARK Summit begins serving families



### **SPARK Ohio prepares children for kindergarten.**

The KRA-L (Kindergarten Readiness Assessment - Literacy) is the Ohio Department of Education's mandated assessment, which is graded on a 29-point scale. It measures the literacy skills correlated with learning to read.

**5**

**For five consecutive years, SPARK Ohio children have outperformed their non-SPARK peers in the same classrooms on the KRA-L.**

### **SPARK Ohio improves children's social-emotional abilities.**

**60%**

*of SPARK Ohio children improved their social-emotional ability, as evidenced by improved scores on the Ages & Stages Questionnaire: Social-Emotional (ASQ:SE).*

### **SPARK Ohio identifies children with challenges and links them to community services before they enter kindergarten.**

**70%**

*of SPARK Ohio children were identified as having developmental, social-emotional, or mental health concerns that would affect school readiness. When interventions were recommended, these children were provided supports and/or linked to community agencies to address their specific needs.*

### **SPARK Ohio improves parents' ability to educate their children.**

**80%**

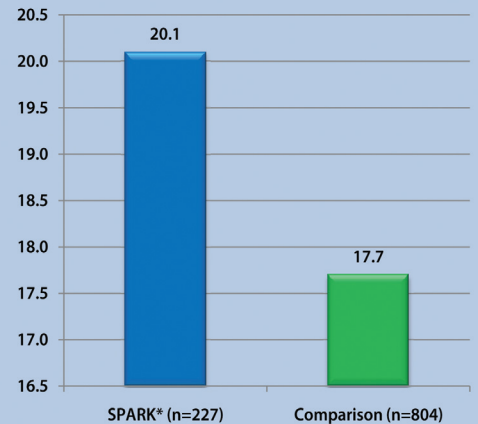
*of SPARK Ohio parents improved their score on the Academic Stimulation portion of the Home Observation for Measurement of the Environment (HOME) after participating in the program. The HOME assesses the learning materials, language stimulation, and academic stimulation in a child's home.*

**72%**

### **SPARK Ohio reaches our most vulnerable preschoolers.**

*of students in SPARK Ohio schools are eligible to receive free or reduced lunch.*

**SPARK Ohio 2010 KRA-L Results**



\*Statistically significant at  $p=.000$

SPARK Ohio 2010 results include Minerva, Alliance, and targeted schools in Canton, Summit, and Trumbull