

21
DAY

RACIAL EQUITY CHALLENGE

DAY 12: BEHIND THE STARTING LINE: RACIALIZED OUTCOMES IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

Early childhood is one of the most critical times for developing healthy minds and bodies. Those who face the challenges of poverty, racism, discrimination, and inequitable access to resources, find themselves “behind the starting line” compared to their peers who do not face these issues.

When a child enters school already behind, it is very difficult to catch up. Resources like universal pre-K, well-child health screenings, and quality childcare are key to ensuring that children enter kindergarten ready to learn and grow with their peers. Low-income Black and Latino families are the most at-risk for inequitable access to these essential resources.

Fortunately, progress has been made in recent years. Since 2010, more than 40 states have instituted state-funded preschool programs and results show that children who attend a high-quality early learning program gain four months of learning, on average. In addition, children see positive gains throughout their lives including improved reading and math scores, better graduation rates, and higher income later in life.

There is still more to be done to provide equitable access to resources that support healthy early childhood development. Check out the info below to learn more.

DID YOU KNOW...

"Rochester's pre-kindergarten programs, through both RCSD and community-based organizations, are nationally known for their quality."

[-ROC the Future, State of Our Children Report Card 2019](#)

LEARN

Option 1: Read [The U.S. Picture: 1,000 Days](#)

Option 2: Watch [Equal Opportunity? Different Starting Lines...](#)

The 21-Day Racial Equity Challenge does not support nor endorse any advertisements associated with the above content.

REFLECT AND TAKE ACTION

Questions to Consider for Self-Reflection:

- What does the school district in your neighborhood do to mitigate the effect of early childhood education inequities?
- Are there ways that you can contribute to or advocate for equitable access to resources in your community?

Local Ways to Get Involved:

- Check out this resource [Resilience in Children: Strategies to Strengthen your Kids](#)
- Review [Supporting Whole Child Health in Early Childhood](#)

Share What You Learned:

Use the images below to share that you learned about race and equity today, and be sure to include #ROCequity.

