



Baby Promise

Early Learner Technology Program

Baby Promise is an interactive literacy program that connects families who may have limited access to technology in their homes in the East End of Pittsburgh, with educational resources that empower them to guide and enhance their child's, literacy development. This program will expose children 0-6 years old, to websites and applications including the iPad and similar touch-screen capabilities and digital manipulatives, which can better prepare them for educational opportunities they might otherwise not get exposed to due to lack of personal, community and school resources.

Baby Promise will utilize the latest available technology and interactive software alongside traditional parent-child book sharing. Through partnerships with others leading the way in educational and technological development of children such as Fred Rogers Center; PAEYC and the East Liberty Family Support Center, the project will provide both in-home literacy learning experiences with the care provider and child, ages 0 -6; and a summertime program for an integrated classroom experience at Kingsley for kids, ages 3 -6.

Just as important, **Baby Promise** is a partnership with a local technology developer, Bright Innovations, Inc. [www.bright-innovation.com], and software developer, Derek Lomas (Carnegie Mellon HCII) that will provide a product evaluation and observational assessment tool for the early-learning populations relationship to technology and collect data that will develop, by projects end, a comprehensive report for best usage and practices for the early-learner relationship to technology and potentially a conceptual framework for new technologies that will better serve the strengths and weakness of this population and populations similar to those served by Kingsley Association and Family Supports in Allegheny County.

This project supported in part by Spark, a program of The Sprout Fund

Spark is an initiative of The Sprout Fund catalyzing projects and programs that engage children ages birth to eight through the creative use of technology and media. Spark challenges individuals, organizations, and communities to generate inventive technology-based solutions to the issues and opportunities facing today's young child. Through its funding opportunities and extensive network of support, Spark is unleashing the innovative potential of Southwestern Pennsylvania and transforming our region into one of the best places on earth to be a kid.

The Sprout Fund enriches the Pittsburgh region's vitality by engaging citizens, amplifying voices, supporting creativity and innovation, and cultivating connected communities. Founded in 2001, Sprout facilitates community-led solutions to regional challenges and supports efforts to create a thriving, progressive, and culturally diverse region.

