

Born to *Thrive*



One relationship, one child, and
one strong brain at a time.



BUILDING STRONG BRAINS
Elkhart County's Early Childhood Initiative

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF BSB



As I reflect on this past year, I'm filled with gratitude for the people and partnerships that make Building Strong Brains (BSB) thrive. What began as a response to low kindergarten readiness has grown into a county-wide movement uniting more than 70 organizations and hundreds of partners around one vision: **that every child in Elkhart County is born healthy and ready to learn.**

In 2025, our coalition strengthened its focus on **connection**—across sectors, neighborhoods, and families. Action teams advanced initiatives in maternal and child health, early learning, and community supports. Parents and caregivers shared their lived experiences helping shape programs such as **Nurturing Care Groups, the Community Resource Navigator Cohort, and the Head Start Boot Camp.**

This year also marked a transformative milestone: a **\$7.5 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.** Through this investment, partners are expanding access to high-quality early childhood opportunities and creating sustainable systems of support for families across the county.

Together, we are building a culture of hope—one relationship, one child, and one strong brain at a time.

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Kim".

Kimberly Boynton, PhD.
Coalition Director



KEY INITIATIVES



435

Prenatal Care Visits

Prenatal Voucher Program
June - September 2025



50

Children Participated

in Head Start Bootcamp
during Summer 2025



2,379

Findhelp Searches

on the BSB website
July 1 - Sept 30, 2025



172

BSB Impacts

reported by Coalition
Partners in 2024



200

Community Partners

actively engaged across 70
cross-sector organizations



2,360

Hours Contributed

by BSB Coalition Members
in 2024



664

Relationships Reported

between coalition partners
in 2024



1,745

Collaborative Activities

advancing BSB reported
by partners in 2025



>\$10M

Contributed to BSB

by community partners
through time, dollars, and
in-kind resources



172

Community Impacts

reported by partners
in 2025, up from 69 in
previous years



THE PUZZLE PIECE FRAMEWORK

Building Strong Brains operates under a collective impact structure, bringing together partners from across the county to align efforts around key priorities:

- Maternal and child health
- High-quality childcare and early learning
- Community supports for children and families

By working collaboratively to strengthen systems, share data, and coordinate solutions, we can efficiently and effectively improve outcomes for young children and their families.

Economic self-sufficiency is an intersecting community need which requires attention, but is not the primary work of Building Strong Brains.

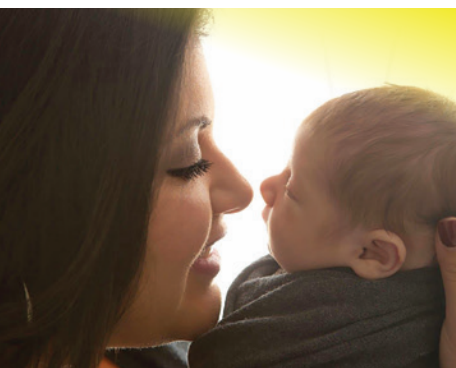


PARTNER STORIES

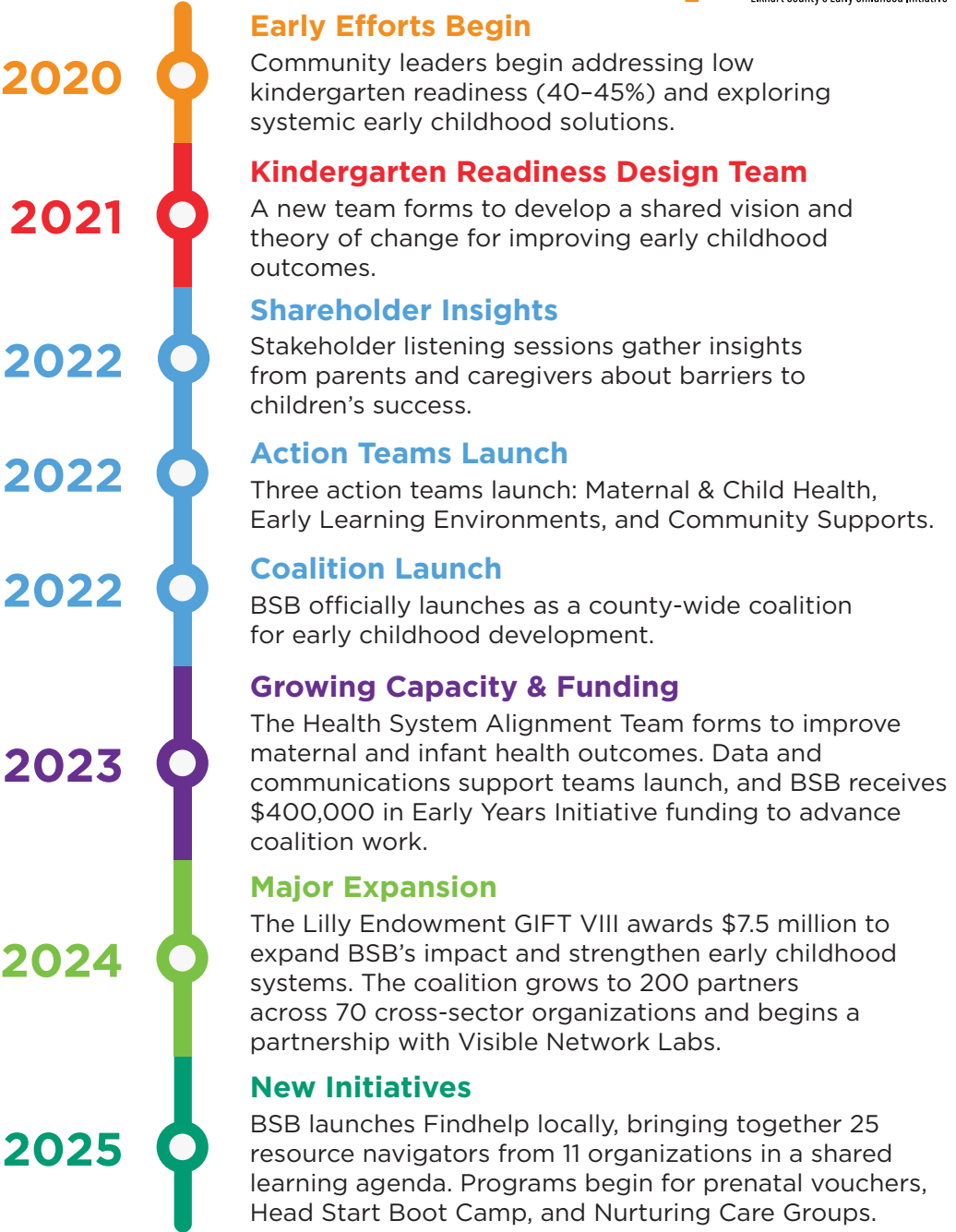
Through trusted partnerships with 11 community organizations across Elkhart County, the prenatal voucher program is helping uninsured mothers access prenatal care.

With support from the BSB Coalition, the Community Supports for Children and Families Action Team launched Findhelp as a one-stop hub for local resources—replacing scattered, outdated lists with an efficient way for families to find the help they need. The team is now gathering data on how the platform is being used and what people are searching for.

The Data Team's work around systems change is not focusing only on traditional measurements, but how organizations connect with one another—revealing both the strength of existing partnerships and where deeper collaboration is needed to guide resources and decisions across the coalition.



BSB TIMELINE





BUILDING STRONG BRAINS

Elkhart County's Early Childhood Initiative

240 East Jackson Boulevard, Suite 104
Elkhart, IN 46516

buildingstrongbrains.net



Resources

Connecting families,
partners, and communities

