

Grundy's Future Starts Here

Did you know that 90% of brain development happens before age 5? Early childhood education lays the foundation for lifelong success. The highest rate of economic returns comes from the earliest investments in children.

Children in high-quality early learning programs are:

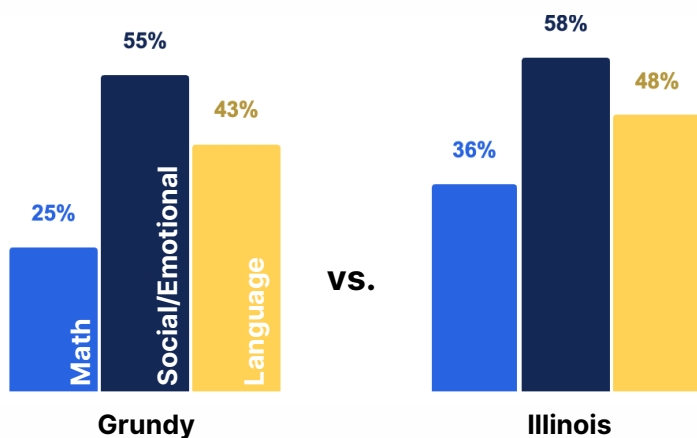
- ★ More likely to be ready for Kindergarten
- ★ More likely to graduate from high school
- ★ Less likely to experience behavioral challenges

Are Grundy Children Ready for Kindergarten?

Illinois rates kindergarten readiness in three developmental areas:

- Math
- Language and Literacy
- Social and Emotional Development

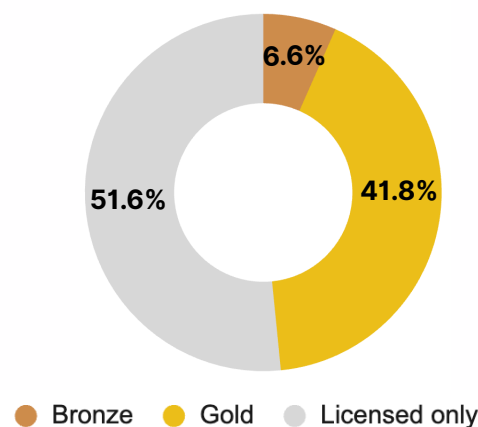
As of the 2022-23 school year, only **20%** of children in Grundy County are kindergarten-ready in all three areas, compared to 30% statewide.



High-quality childcare makes a difference.

ExceleRate Illinois is the state's quality rating system for licensed child care, helping families find high-quality options. Programs are rated as **Bronze**, **Silver**, and **Gold**, with Gold being the highest.

In 2022, **fewer than half** of licensed childcare programs were rated as either Bronze or Gold, and among those that were rated, the majority received a Gold rating.



Interested in knowing more about ExceleRate programs in Grundy?

[Scan here:](#)



Let's work together to ensure every child is ready for kindergarten!

- ✓ Look to elected officials to support policies and funding that expand access to quality care.
- ✓ Talk to your local leaders about the importance of early childhood education and care.
- ✓ Encourage school and district partnerships that support families and early caregivers.