



**Collaboration for  
Early Childhood**



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**THE COLLABORATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD RECEIVES GRANT FROM BERWYN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TO OFFER PARENT LEADERSHIP TRAINING TO BERWYN FAMILIES**

*For the first time, the Collaboration for Early Childhood will expand its Parent Leadership Training program to Berwyn parents and caregivers with young children thanks to a grant from the Berwyn Development Corporation. The training is completely free and is meant to amplify parent voice and support parents in achieving their goals.*

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Parent Leadership Training, now in its fifth year, has been offered to families in Oak Park, River Forest, and the surrounding area with young children. On January 27, the Collaboration for Early Childhood will offer the training bilingually (English and Spanish) to Berwyn-area families for the first time thanks to a grant from the Berwyn Development Corporation Philanthropic Grant program.

Parent Leadership Training uses a curriculum designed by COFI (Community Organizing Family Issues). It is a seven-week training that brings together a small, committed group of parents and caregivers who work together to create an action plan to define and then accomplish their goals. These goals can be life goals or goals for the community as a whole.

“At the Collaboration for Early Childhood, we know that when parents strengthen their voices to advocate for themselves and their children, our communities are also stronger. The Parent Leadership Training directly aligns with the Berwyn Development Corporation Board of Directors’ Philanthropic Committee’s mission to benefit the City of Berwyn through leadership, community betterment, and self-sufficiency,” says **Mary Reynolds**, Executive Director of the Collaboration for Early Childhood.

“The Philanthropic Committee and the Berwyn Development Corporation Board of Directors are committed to supporting and advancing the educational, cultural, and economic interests of the Berwyn community. The Collaboration for Early Childhood’s Parent Leadership Training exemplifies ways for Berwyn families to define their goals and reach their full potential. When families in Berwyn win, we all win,” says **Diane Salemi**, Board President of the Berwyn Development Corporation.

Parents and caregivers who have completed past Parent Leadership Training cohorts have shared a variety of outcomes as a result of the training including: advocating for and getting an IEP for a youngest son, buying a house, getting the extra support their whole family needs in therapy, paying off credit cards, losing 40 pounds, and securing a new job that provides consistent income for their family.

The Parent Leadership Training is open to all Berwyn-area parents and caregivers of young children and is completely free. The 7-week training will begin on Saturday, January 27 at 9:00 a.m. Participants may join either online or in person (location in Berwyn TBD). Free child care will be available for all participants who join the training in person. The training will be facilitated in English and Spanish.

Parents and caregivers who are interested in participating in the training beginning on January 27 can visit: [collab4kids.org/events/plt-for-berwyn-families](https://collab4kids.org/events/plt-for-berwyn-families) to register and learn more about the training.

### **About the Collaboration for Early Childhood**

The Collaboration for Early Childhood is a community-driven organization that cultivates the development of the whole child, birth to age five, by engaging families, local organizations, early childhood educators, caregivers, and health providers to create equitable, nurturing, and interconnected systems of support.