



October 2020

## STRONGER ME, STRONGER WE

Parents and families play the most powerful and influential role in a child's life. As children's' first teachers, advocates, and coaches, parents and families set the stage for success. In recognition of this monumental task, SCGLR's 0-5 Express newsletter is evolving into a family-engagement newsletter that will provide free, actionable, high-quality resources and programs, which focus on strengthening you, our region's children, and our community.

Inspired by [adapting and innovating](#) though the pandemic and building upon the grade-level reading movement, here is a sneak peek into SCGLR's newest initiative, Stronger Me, Stronger We.



## Vrooming into Literacy

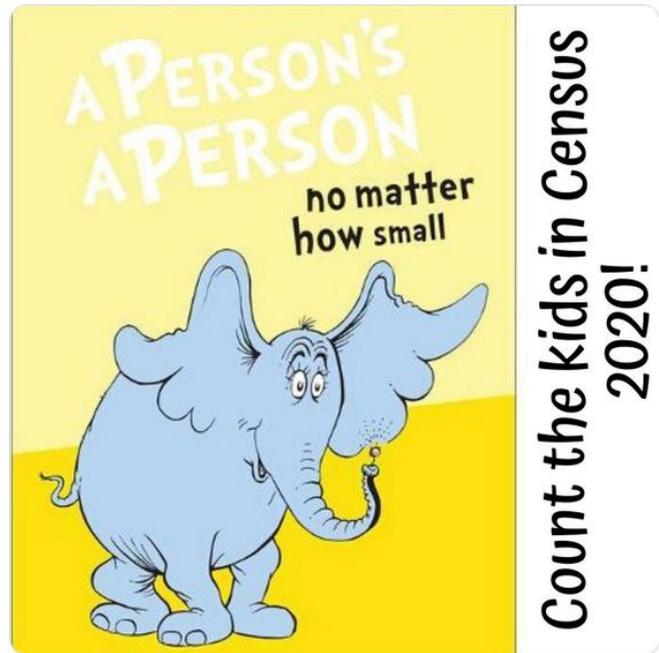
During five 1-hour, guided conversations centered on child development, SCGLR will introduce new games and activities you can use to engage your child and help build their brain. Using proven research, we will practice fun and entertaining methods of encouraging literacy to help children establish a love of learning and reading.

## Census Count Critical to Early Childhood Funding



Debra Jacobs  
@DebraMJacobs

#Census2020 is for all ages...with children 0-4 often not counted....Please ask families to not only complete #Census2020 but to include all family members [census.gov](https://www.census.gov)



9:39 AM · Aug 28, 2020 · Twitter for iPad

*Editor's Note: This excerpt was originally posted in the [Herald-Tribune](#) and is written by Kathryn Shea, former president and CEO of the [Florida Center for Early Childhood](#).*

The decennial census (every ten years) is the most inclusive civic activity in our country, intended to cover each person in every household. While the census accuracy for adults has been improving over time, the undercount for children under age five has been getting progressively worse.



## Mind in the Making

Based on the groundbreaking book by Ellen Galinsky, entitled *Mind in the Making: The Seven Essential Life Skills Every Child Needs*, successful children can focus on their work and control their behavior, figure out what others think and feel, explain what they are thinking, use what they learn creatively, search for reliable information, take on challenges, and engage in learning.

During five 1-hour, facilitated workshops, parents, grandparents, and caregivers will learn how to strengthen these essential skills and teach them to the children they love. If you're looking for fun and constructive ways to connect with the children in your life, this interactive experience is right up your alley!



## THIS BOOK IS COOL!

THIS BOOK IS COOL! is a series of 100 webisodes to encourage a love of reading. It premiered on June 1, 2020, and 5,302 children participated. Combined, they read 94,383 books! Due to its success, and

because the community wanted more, SCGLR is offering five 1-hour, guided conversations to teach you how to help your child process new information from books and the world around them.

When infants and young children are undercounted, their communities are denied a full voice in policy decision-making. Political boundaries may not accurately depict reality. Not only do Congress members and state legislators make decisions about programs that serve young children, but every year, more than \$800 billion in federal funds are allocated based on census data.

Many of these programs are critical for ensuring the health and safety of our communities. Those necessary to support our infants and young children include foster care, the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), Child Care Development Fund, Head Start, and Medicaid. (More than two-fifths of Medicaid enrollees are children).

Young children are missed so often in the census for multiple reasons. Nearly 4.5 million children under age five live in the United States' "hard-to-count" neighborhoods. Poor households are difficult to enumerate, and young children have a higher poverty rate than any other age group. According to the annual report by Florida KIDS COUNT, nearly one in five Sarasota County children lives in poverty.

Some groups of children, depending on their race, ethnicity, or even living situation, have above-average undercounts. Young Black and Hispanic children have the highest net undercounts. Experts estimate that approximately 6.5% of African American and Hispanic children were overlooked by the 2010 Census, roughly twice the rate for young, non-Hispanic White children. The population most likely to be missed in the census is the very same group of children most likely to live in poverty, experience homelessness, and experience stress.

We all have a responsibility to ensure each baby and young child in our region is counted. You can help by assisting and reminding the families you know and with whom you work to complete the census form. This year, the national response rate



## The Power of Presence

Through five 1-hour, guided conversations, you will take a journey that will give insight into improving your ability to be present with your family and community. By sharing your thoughts and experiences, you will help each other discover new ways to strengthen connections.

Are you ready to take the first step? Join us, as we discover Joy Thomas Moore's seven pillars of presence:

- Mind
- Heart
- Faith
- Courage
- Financial Freedom
- Values
- Connectedness

Times of uncertainty demand the very best from all of us. [The Patterson Foundation](#) wants to invest in you to provide increased knowledge and personal development, which, in turn, will make our community stronger. There is no doubt that parents, caregivers, educators, and community members care deeply about the children in our lives. Stronger Me, Stronger We provides opportunities for personal growth and connection at no cost, thanks to the generosity of The Patterson Foundation.

Interested in exploring the possibilities? Email Donna Puhlovich, at [dpuhalovichtpf@gmail.com](mailto:dpuhalovichtpf@gmail.com)

form. This year, the national response rate is lagging, as the pandemic further disrupts a complete count.

It is crucial to count children now, so they have the resources they need as they grow. It all begins by responding to the 2020 Census.

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If the children in your life aren't counted, it isn't you who misses out over the next ten years, it's them!

If you haven't already, [you are encouraged to complete the 2020 Census today.](#)



[Make Your Family Count \(1-minute video\)](#)

Census 2020 special coverage comes from [Aspirations Journalism](#), an initiative of The Patterson Foundation and the Herald-Tribune to inform, inspire, and engage the community.