



Inspiring Minds  
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## A Guide to the Inspiring Minds Kindergarten Project Collaboration with RIC

### About Inspiring Minds

Inspiring Minds is a non-profit education agency founded in 1963 dedicated to providing the educational support services students need to succeed. Our mission is to create successful student by providing them with the appropriate academic and social supports.

### What is the Kindergarten Project

The Kindergarten Project partners college students with Kindergarten classrooms to bring individualized attention to the Kindergarten students and provides an in-school experience to aspiring Rhode Island College teaching students. The partnership reduces ratios in the Kindergarten classroom for 2 hours each day resulting in increased student proficiency levels in the classroom.

### The Kindergarten Project program goals are as follows:

*To encourage a child's interest in school by:*

- Promoting enthusiasm for learning
- Assisting child in overcoming any apprehension toward assignments
- Building comprehension, listening and vocabulary skills
- Increasing attention and concentration in tasks.

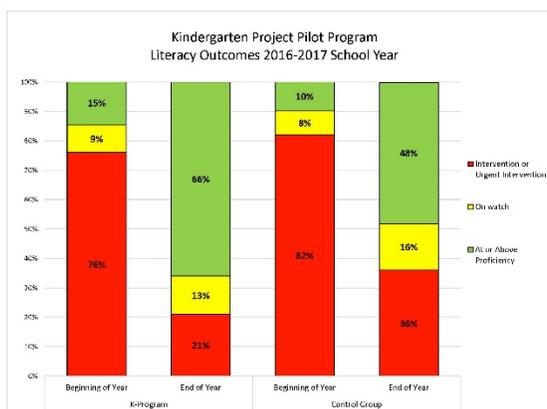
*To expand a child's opportunities for success by:*

- Being a mentor who will act like a positive role model.
- Providing individualized attention to students
- Exposing the child to new information and experiences.
- Helping the child to articulate thoughts
- Enhancing imagination, insight, and independent thinking.

*To facilitate meaningful volunteer contributions by:*

- Reducing the student to adult ratio in the Kindergarten classroom.
- Creating linkages between the district, higher education, and non-profit organizations.
- Providing an opportunity for aspiring teachers/youth development workers to participate and observe urban classrooms.
- Requiring a structured volunteer preparation program through course work and training.

### What is the impact?



### Participating Teacher Comments

- “With targeted, differentiated instruction, specific needs are being met. Students are being double dosed and targeted strategies are being reinforced moving students towards level of proficiency.”
- “I noticed a significant difference from Beginning Of Year to Middle of Year [with my students]. I love having Inspiring Minds Volunteers in my class. My students love working with the volunteers. I believe their input is valuable to my struggling students.”

## How can I get involved?

For college students: In order to be accepted, students must be enrolled in a college course with a service learning requirement and be willing to volunteer a minimum of 15 hours during the semester.

For Kindergarten Teachers: Request the Kindergarten Project for your classroom online at [www.inspiringmindsri.org](http://www.inspiringmindsri.org).

## How does the Kindergarten Project operate?

Three trained college-student volunteers are placed in a classroom four days per week. Each volunteer tutors works in a group of up to three students for approximately 30 minutes. The Kindergarten teacher assigns the volunteers tasks and are provided clear direction on the student's assignment, skill level and progress.

## Training

Training is conducted by the RIC Coordinator and by Inspiring Minds.

Coursework from the Rhode Island College supports the college student to view schools and other agencies that serve children and youth from a multicultural and global perspective, uphold democratic values of caring and respect for persons, and advocate as professionals on behalf of the students, families, and communities they serve.

In addition to this coursework, the RIC Coordinator offers an additional training on principles of tutoring, behavior management, school rules, confidentiality, punctuality, attendance, and mandated reporting.

Students from other area colleges and universities attend Inspiring Mind's onboarding session that includes the same content.

## A Kindergarten Project Volunteer ...

Provides positive, structured, consistent weekly attention to a group of 3 to 4 students.

Builds a relationship with the children.

Makes a commitment to volunteer for at least one semester.

Supports the goals of encouraging a child's interest in school and expanding a child's opportunity for success.



## Additional Questions?

Call us at: 401-274-3240

Email us at [inspire@inspiringmindsri.org](mailto:inspire@inspiringmindsri.org)

Check out our website: [inspiringmindsri.org](http://inspiringmindsri.org)

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