

Celebrating Growth: Brynnlee’s SPARK Story

Brynnlee joins fellow SPARK Summit County graduates as they take their next step toward success in kindergarten



Families, children, and staff gathered at the Early Childhood Resource Center’s Akron office on June 17 to celebrate an important milestone as 51 children in Summit County completed the SPARK program and are now ready to take their next step into kindergarten.

The graduation ceremony recognized not only the children’s achievements but also the commitment of the families who supported them along the way. Parents and caregivers play a significant role in the SPARK model, collaborating with our Parent Partners to build the skills and confidence children need to succeed in school and beyond.

Among this year’s graduates was Brynnlee (pictured in the pink shirt at lower right of the above collage), whose journey reflects the kind of growth SPARK is designed to support.

When Brynnlee first began the program, she was often shy and hesitant. She moved quickly from one activity to another and struggled to feel confident in her abilities. With consistent encouragement from her Parent Partner, Samantha Ott, and the steady support of her parents, Brynnlee began to build both focus and self-assurance.

Over time, that growth became clear. Brynnlee now engages more fully in activities, can sit and complete tasks, and takes pride in what she accomplishes. Her creativity has blossomed, especially through drawing and coloring, where her imagination shines.

Just as important, Brynnlee has made meaningful gains socially and emotionally. She approaches new experiences with greater confidence and is excited to begin kindergarten this fall. Her mother and father have been key partners in this progress, continually encouraging her, reinforcing her strengths, and supporting her learning at home.

Brynnlee’s story is one example of the impact made possible through SPARK Summit County, where families, staff, and community partners work together to give children a strong start.

That impact would not be possible without the dedication of the SPARK team, including Kelley Moffett, SPARK Program Supervisor for Summit County, and Parent Partners Shannon Ott and Samantha Taylor, who work alongside families during this critical stage of development. It is also made possible through the support of the GAR Foundation, whose investment helps ensure that SPARK remains accessible to families across Summit County.

As this year’s graduates prepare to enter kindergarten, they do so with a stronger foundation, growing confidence, and a community behind them, all working toward the same goal: helping every child succeed.

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To learn more about our SPARK program, which is available in select school districts in Summit and Stark counties, call the Early Childhood Resource Center at 330.949.7162 (Summit) or 330.491.3272 (Stark), or visit sparkohio.org.