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***Sunbeam Celebrates \$25,000 George Kaiser Grant to Support Early Childhood Education at Educare Oklahoma City***

**(OKLAHOMA CITY)** – Sunbeam Family Services received a \$25,000 grant in support of early childhood education at Educare Oklahoma City, a program of Sunbeam Family Services.

“We are thrilled to have the Foundation’s continued support,” said Paula Gates, director of early childhood services at Sunbeam. “This generous grant will help young children at Educare Oklahoma City learn, grow and thrive.”

Each year, Educare Oklahoma City supports 170 children from birth to five and their families. Sunbeam is a leader in early care and education. Children who are not prepared to start school at age 5 are at risk of never catching up, leaving an achievement gap that can persist throughout their entire lives.

To help children and families thrive in our community, Sunbeam provides opportunities for families who might normally have difficulty in accessing high quality early learning and care programs. By providing full-day, full-year center based services in more than 15 locations across the Oklahoma City metro, including Educare Oklahoma City, families are able to invest in their children during this crucial period of development. The nonprofit’s Early Head Start home-based program is also available for children ages birth to three.

Families are essential to the success of the child. Through Sunbeam’s Early Childhood Services program, each family has a dedicated family advocate who actively helps the family problem solve, locate resources within the community and achieve child and family goals. Families are also invited to volunteer with classrooms and are encouraged to apply for employment opportunities. This holistic approach addresses the needs of the whole family, including the personal and professional goals of the parent.

Sunbeam is committed to helping children develop strong social skills including self-confidence and emerge better prepared for kindergarten. By nurturing early learning, Sunbeam, their community partners, and their families, work together to close the achievement gap for our children.

Join Sunbeam in the movement to help children grow, heal, learn and thrive. For more information visit [sunbeamfamilyservices.org](http://sunbeamfamilyservices.org) or call 405-528-7721.

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About Sunbeam Family Services

Founded in 1907, Sunbeam Family Services is one of Oklahoma’s longest serving nonprofits and is one of the original United Way of Central Oklahoma Community partners. Sunbeam’s mission is to provide help, hope and the opportunity to succeed to people of all ages in central Oklahoma through Early Childhood, Counseling, Foster Care and Senior Services. To learn more, call 405-528-7721, visit [sunbeamfamilyservices.org](http://sunbeamfamilyservices.org), or join the conversation on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.