

**For Immediate Release**

Dec. 16, 2020

**Contact**

Jeremy Coleman

Marketing and Communications Manager

Jcoleman@sunbeamfamilyservices.org

Office: (405) 609-1947 Cell: (405) 202-5140

[Download a video about the](https://youtu.be/pnn0swxqB1A) partnership
[Download STEAM activity photos](https://www.flickr.com/photos/sunbeamfamilyservices/albums/72157717256487522)

**Sunbeam Awarded $100,000 Grant from Boeing to Support Tomorrow’s Innovators**

**STEAM Initiative Ignites a Love of Learning in Infants and Toddlers**

**(OKLAHOMA CITY)** – Sunbeam Family Services announced it was awarded a $100,000 grant from Boeing (NYSE: BA) to expand the nonprofit’s Early STEAM Project. This generous grant from Boeing places a greater emphasis on science, technology, engineering, arts, and math for 354 young children from birth to 3 years of age at a number of Sunbeam’s early education centers.

This project, which was implemented last year at two of Sunbeam’s early education centers, will be expanded to support Millwood Early Education Center and Sunbeam’s Home Visitation Program. Through this expansion, Sunbeam will continue to harnesses the power of STEAM to drive high-quality learning and development in young children to positively impact kindergarten readiness.

“This generous grant from Boeing will continue to equip students with increased access to informal and formal STEAM education,” said Sunbeam CEO Sarah Rahhal. “STEAM education leads to learning through curiosity and sensory exploration, increased logical and symbolic thinking abilities and skilled usage of early math competencies. This project will also educate, empower and energize the adults in children’s lives to see STEAM as it unfolds around us on a daily basis.”

Outdoor classrooms and experiential playgrounds will provide additional informal access to STEAM education to infants and toddlers. Students will be able to use the garden areas to learn about animals and plants, while water activities will help students learn about physics, like why certain items sink and certain items float. The playground also allows students to discover earth sciences through the exploration and discussion of the sun, rocks, dirt and weather.

Sunbeam considers active parent engagement, both in the classroom and at home, a crucial component of all its early learning programs. Parents are the child’s first and primary teacher. By expanding parent knowledge in STEAM, learning is extended in to the home and increases the school-success future for the child.

“Boeing recognizes the critical role early learning plays in giving all students a strong and equal start in life,” said Nancy Anderson, Boeing vice president of Aircraft Modernization and Modification and Boeing Oklahoma City site executive. “We are proud to support Sunbeam’s Early STEAM Project so that both classrooms and families have innovative tools to inspire and enrich our youngest learners.”

Boeing develops tomorrow’s innovators through investments in STEM education and in the 21st century skills required in today’s modern workplace. Boeing’s contribution is unique because it targets readiness, experiential learning opportunities and adaptability skills.

Established in 1907, Sunbeam is Oklahoma’s longest-serving social service agency. The nonprofit helps children, families and seniors learn, grow and thrive. For more information visit SunbeamFamilyServices.org or call (405) 528-7721.

###

About Sunbeam Family Services
Founded in 1907, Sunbeam Family Services is one of Oklahoma’s longest serving nonprofits. The nonprofit helps children, families and seniors learn, grow and thrive. To learn more, call (405) 528-7721, visit sunbeamfamilyservices.org, or join the conversation on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

About The Boeing Company:
|Boeing is the world’s largest aerospace company and leading provider of commercial airplanes, defense, space and security systems, and global services. As the top U.S. exporter, the company supports commercial and government customers in more than 150 countries and leverages the talents of a global supplier base. Building on a legacy of aerospace leadership, Boeing continues to lead in technology and innovation, deliver for its customers and invest in its people and future growth.