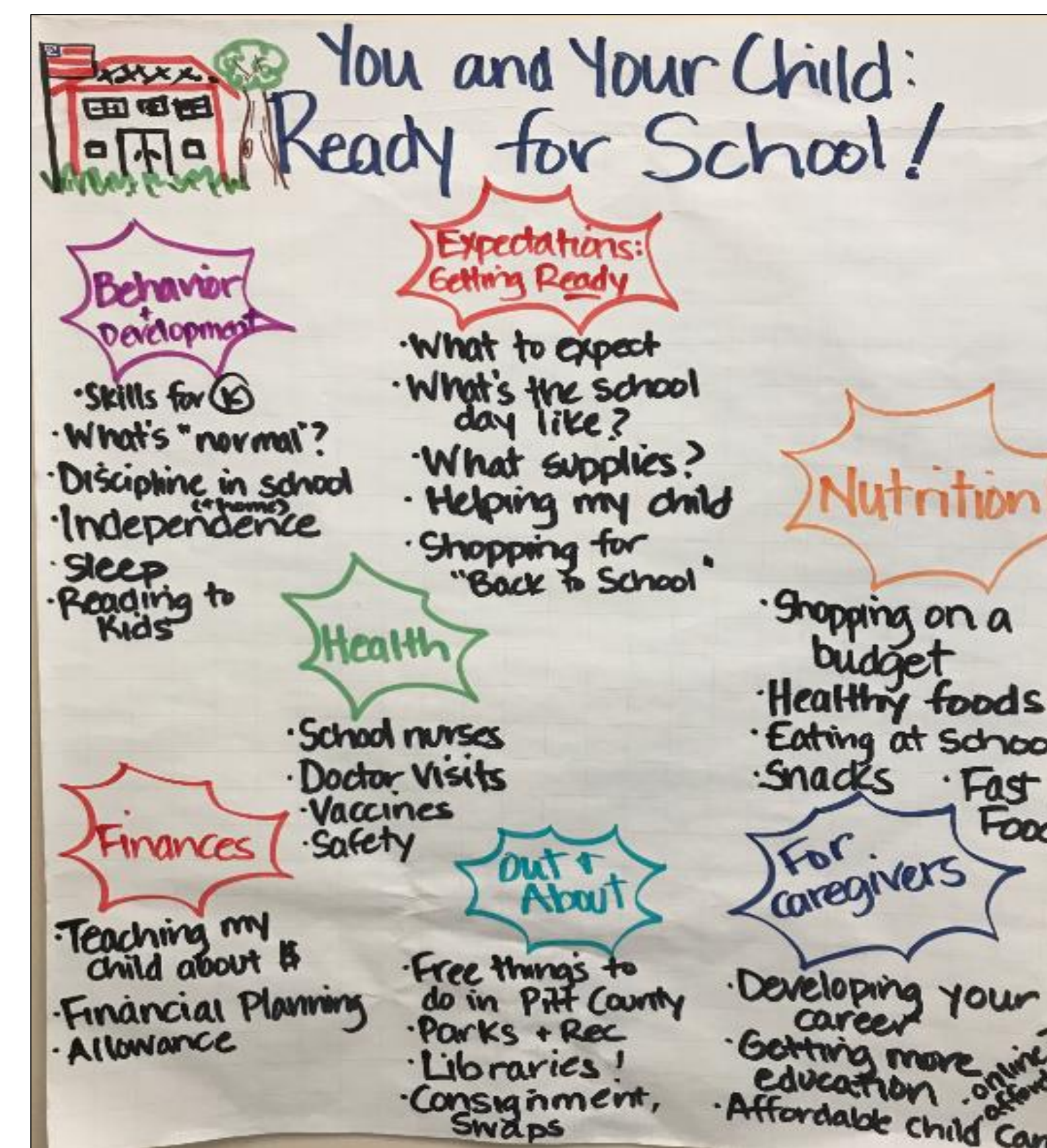
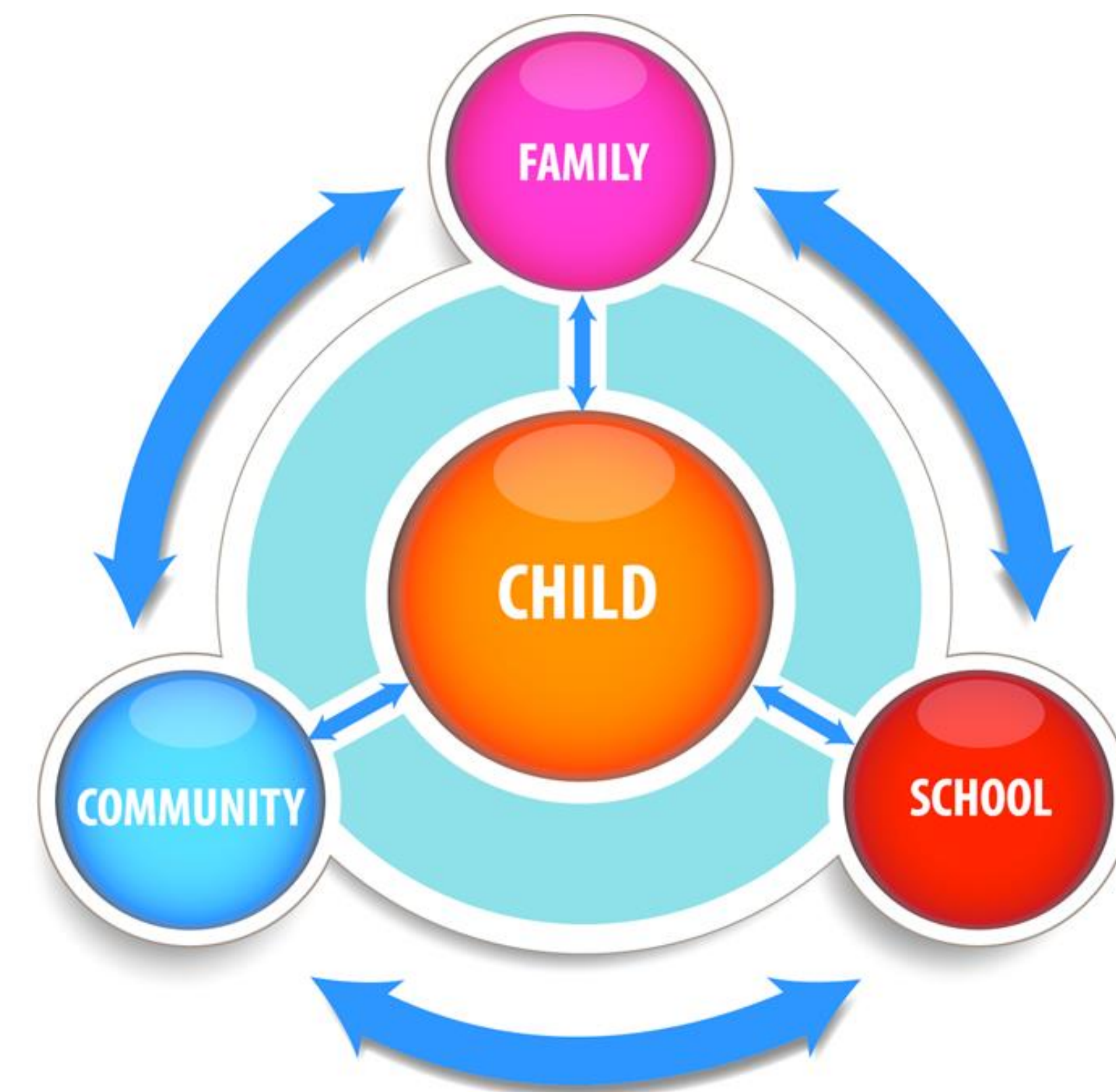


RATIONALE/NEED

- School readiness includes the readiness of the individual child, the school's readiness for children, and the ability of a family and community to support optimal early child development.
- **Only 49% of children in Pitt County begin school "kindergarten-ready,"** with lower scores in lower SES families.
- Pediatricians are a natural link to educating parents on development and parenting skills.
- Despite the American Academy of Pediatrics' (AAP) stance that pediatricians should advocate for school readiness, few training programs have a formal program to address it.
- This advocacy project was created for pediatricians and pediatric residents to promote school readiness concepts in the community by providing workshops to caregivers with concurrent enrichment activities for children.
- The project engages residents and faculty with community partners in a community-based advocacy project.

METHODS

- Project leaders met with potential community partners to identify existing resources and need.
- The "Family Academy at Carver" was created.
- Family focus groups convened at Carver branch library to determine caregiver need.
- Meetings were advertised at the libraries, on social media, our clinic, and by our community partners.
- Monthly meetings at the Carver branch library were held for families of children under five with presentations from community partners, an ECU social worker, and pediatricians.
- While caregivers interact, children participate in story time, craft time, and have a snack.
- Each child receives a free book and is enrolled in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library (DPIL)
- Caregivers are periodically polled for topic needs and sessions were planned accordingly.



IMPACT/LESSONS LEARNED

- In one year, more than half of our pediatric residents have been exposed to a community advocacy project.
- We are interviewing participants to evaluate the impact of this project and to aid improvement.
- Parents value out-of-office interactions with pediatricians.
- Our community partners welcome physician involvement and leadership in school readiness advocacy.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful for our community partners:

- Maria Cue, our volunteer reader
- Parents for Public Schools of Pitt County
- Pitt County Health Department
- Sheppard Memorial Library
- Martin-Pitt Partnership for Children
- ReadENC
- United Way

We are grateful for the AAP's Community Pediatric Training Initiative and the Duke Endowment.

RESULTS

From March 2017- March 2019,

- We have served 42 children and 29 caregivers.
- Twenty residents, one medical student, one staff member and three faculty members attended meetings.
- We have handed out 60 books.
- Topics covered include: kindergarten registration, healthy eating on a budget, parenting skills, age-appropriate discipline, library resources, STEM programs, summer camp opportunities, and activities to stimulate child development.
- Six community partners have presented.
- We have signed up 180 children for DPIL at sessions or in our clinic.

