

Boost to Kindergarten!

Sponsored By:

Success Report



**Sponsored by Nemours Children's Health in
collaboration with the Early Learning
Coalition of Brevard County.**



Testimonials from Summer Bridge Teachers at Brevard Public School

“The Summer Bridge program provides a consistent routine that mirrors the academic year, just in a smaller, manageable time frame. Combined with the wonderful backpack resources, this intentional preparation ensures our students are not just ready for kindergarten, but excited to learn from day one. ”

- Milenka Smith, BPS Summer Bridge teacher



“Summer Bridge gives our incoming kindergarten students the opportunity to build confidence, make new friends, and continue building early literacy skills. Watching the students’ growth over just a few weeks has been incredible. The backpacks provided by Nemours and the Early Learning Coalition are so much more than school supplies, they give families the resources they need to continue learning together at home and help children feel excited and prepared for kindergarten. The combination of engaging instruction and the thoughtful take-home materials helps set our students up for a successful start and reminds our families that they have a community supporting them every step of the way.”

- Heather Saule, Summer Bridge BPS teacher

The “Boost to K” backpack project is a partnership between the Early Learning Coalition of Brevard and Brevard Public Schools in the summer of 2026. This outreach effort supported Brevard County children transitioning from VPK to Kindergarten in the Summer Bridge Program in Brevard Public Schools.

Summer Bridge Program provides additional classroom support for the following students:

- Scored below the 25th percentile on FAST Star Early Literacy assessment
- Could not complete the practice items for any reason, including non-English speaker
- Could not complete the assessment because it is inappropriate for their needs (e.g., child’s Individual Education Plan (IEP) requires paper-based testing)

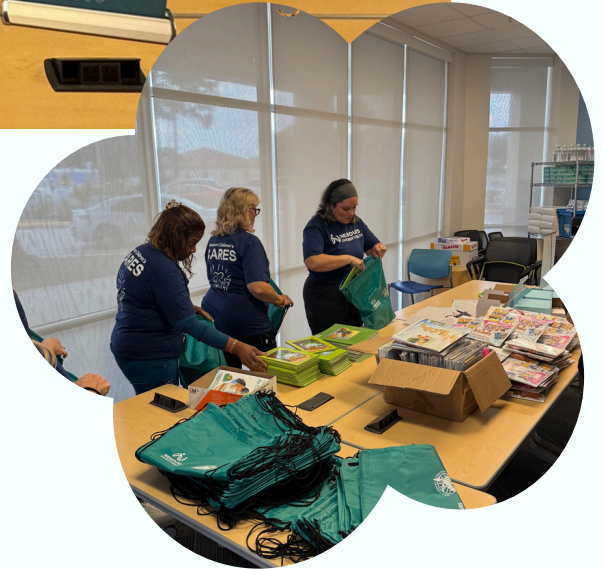
Nemours Team members packed kits including a variety of engaging and educational tools. These kits extend the classroom curriculum to encourage family engagement, build confidence, and encourage at home early learning routines.

Kit components:

- Reading Timers to help establish consistent reading routines
- “The Night Before the First Day of Kindergarten” book to ease first-day jitters and spark excitement
- LCD Writing Tablets for practicing handwriting and letter formation in a fun, reusable way
- Reading Pal to help children to practice reading out loud at home to their new stuffed animal friend
- Reading Chart to track summer reading
- Desk Pet to bring on the first day of school
- Crayons, pencils, and stickers
- Family Resource Guide including a removeable Summer Bridge VPK Certificate
- Additional story book to read together as family

Impact:

- 100 backpacks were distributed to children in the Summer Bridge program at Brevard Public Schools
- 12 Nemours volunteers, ELC Brevard team members and a Brevard Public School representative partnered on the community project
- Project supports ELC Brevard’s mission that Brevard County children start school prepared to succeed



Backpack Packing Day



Backpack Giveaway Day