



COUNTYWIDE EARLY LEARNING INITIATIVES 2026 – Q & A

What makes this such an exciting milestone for Grace Place?

This is a moment to celebrate because it means more children across Collier County will arrive at kindergarten ready to thrive, and more parents will gain the English and workforce skills to build brighter futures. NCF's selection of Grace Place to lead this work is a powerful affirmation of everything our staff, volunteers, and donors have poured into this mission together.

How does this growth make donor investment in Golden Gate even more meaningful?

Donor generosity is the heartbeat of Grace Place, and it remains absolutely essential. Every fundraising appeal, matching campaign, and event continues to be focused on sustaining and strengthening core programs, direct family services, and long-term program quality right here in Golden Gate.

Will my donation continue to go directly to the families I care about?

Yes. Your support continues to flow directly to the families served in Golden Gate. Both new initiatives are funded through a dedicated, three-year NCF grant, so existing donor contributions are never redirected or diluted in any way.

How is financial integrity maintained as Grace Place grows?

Grace Place upholds rigorous financial stewardship at every level: separate tracking of grant-funded initiatives, clear budget allocation, regular reporting, and strong board governance — so every dollar is managed with full transparency and accountability.

Why is Grace Place expanding into new communities rather than adding a 2nd site in Golden Gate?

Grace Place conducted a thorough, thoughtful search, evaluating 41 potential locations, including sites within Golden Gate. This careful process pointed out that there was not a site currently available in Golden Gate, and it pointed us toward the most impactful opportunities to expand our reach and serve more families well. The sites selected, East Naples Methodist Church and the Boys and Girls Club of Collier County, have existing classrooms that matched our requirements and a large population of families that will benefit from Bright Beginnings."

Why is Naples Park Elementary an ideal home for the new Early Learning Center?

Naples Park Elementary is already a trusted community anchor and co-locating there creates a seamless growth path for early learners on their way to kindergarten. Families facing economic hardship and limited childcare options will have access to scholarships for high-quality, full-day early education, opening doors to kindergarten readiness for children and full-time opportunity for parents.

How does this expansion benefit Grace Place as a whole organization?

Growth creates positive ripple effects everywhere: greater visibility for the mission, innovative best practices that strengthen Golden Gate programming, and expanded career opportunities for staff. These initiatives allow Grace Place to do more good without taking a single thing away from the work already underway.



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What does success look like three years from now?

It looks like thriving: new communities with Grace Place's proven model fully rooted, families building literacy and opportunity together, and a flourishing early learning center feeding directly into kindergarten readiness. Grace Place will celebrate outcomes, assess financial sustainability, and measure family impact, with the Board charting next steps and donors receiving clear, joyful updates throughout the journey.

How can volunteers and community partners be part of this exciting next chapter?

The same wonderful ways they always have by sharing time, skills, and connections. As the Bright Beginnings sites and the Naples Park Center grow, inspiring new volunteer roles in early childhood classrooms, adult education, and family support will open alongside them. Partners eager to help shape this next chapter are warmly invited to reach out directly.