

# Event helps dozens of kids get ready to start school

**BRENDA SPOSATO**  
FOR LUMINARIES

A special celebration, spearheaded by the Kindergarten Readiness Collaborative took place recently at the Indian River Mall in efforts to connect parents with resources regarding early education.

Years ago, when children were not being registered for kindergarten until the first day of school, the Kindergarten Readiness Collaborative knew they needed to step in.

“Children were coming to school unattended on their first day. Parents didn’t know what to do. Their kids didn’t know what to do, so that’s why we came up with the idea of the Kindergarten Round-Up,” said Board Chair Meredith Egan.

The Indian River County Schools, Education Foundation, local elementary schools and more than 30 organizations took part in the one-day event.

“Everyone has done a great job in coming together to help families register their kids for kindergarten. We’ve had tremendous success with our programs — an increase in readiness rate up to 90 percent,” said Education Foundation Executive Director Cynthia Falardeau.

“This is an exciting day for all of our kindergarteners!” board member Kerry Bartlett said.

More than 200 children registered for kindergarten and over 65 kids signed up for STEP into Kindergarten (a program which helps kids 0-5 prepare for kindergarten).

If you would like more information or to find how you can get involved, visit [krcirc.org](http://krcirc.org).



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**KRC Board Member Fran Adams, Board Chair Meredith Egan, and Board Member Brooke Flood**



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**Dasie Bridgewater Hope Center Administrative Assistant Carol Pinder and Assistant Director Kimberly Wright**



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**Darlene Gordon with Indian River Health Department; IR Charter High School Students Sophia Fodor, and Emily Ottesen; and Lisa Bishop Beachland Elementary Teacher**



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**IR Healthy Start Program Manager Brianna Fernandez and Family Assessment Worker Stacey Walshburn**



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**Angela Finklin, Bridget Lyons, and Anitra Brundidge**