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Born Learning Trail to be installed at American Legion Park

MARY ALFORD The News-Enterprise Mar 29, 2018

A trail geared toward providing fun, active learning activities for young children and their families soon will have a place at American Legion Park in Elizabethtown.

Katie Kurtz, United Way of Central Kentucky director of development and communications, said the Born Learning Trail will run along the outskirts of Funtopia at the park.

"It's exciting to have (the trail) in a public place where kids are already going," Kurtz said, noting the trail is free to use.

Kurtz said it will include a series of 10 interactive signs that offer learning activities for children 5 or younger and their families. She said the trail will help parents, caregivers and communities create quality engagement opportunities for youth.

"The earlier we prepare children for success in school, the better," Kurtz said.

The idea for the trail in Elizabethtown emerged in the fall, Kurtz said. She said it has come to fruition by the partnership of United Way of Central Kentucky with the city of Elizabethtown, Lincoln Trail District Health Department, Elizabethtown schools and Brighter Futures Counseling.

Kurtz said there also are Born Learning Trails at North Park Elementary School in Radcliff and in LaRue County.

"This is the first, more accessible Born Learning Trail in Elizabethtown," she said, adding a community member also has volunteered to install a Little Free Library at the end of the trail.

Kurtz said work on the trail will begin in April. She said organizers potentially are looking to have a ribbon-cutting ceremony to coincide with the Born Learning Academy graduation April 10 at Panther Academy.

United Way's five-county region has multiple Born Learning academies, which provide ongoing opportunities to prepare children and their families or caregivers for success in kindergarten.

Kurtz said Born Learning began in 2005 as United Way's first national public engagement campaign.

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