

[http://www.thenewsenterprise.com/news/education/new-born-learning-trail-to-open-this-weekend-with-fair/article\\_f52140bb-b6d3-5638-ad8e-6fd3ed87b8a0.html](http://www.thenewsenterprise.com/news/education/new-born-learning-trail-to-open-this-weekend-with-fair/article_f52140bb-b6d3-5638-ad8e-6fd3ed87b8a0.html)

## New Born Learning Trail to open this weekend with fair

KATHERINE KNOTT The News-Enterprise May 17, 2018



Elizabethtown Parks and Recreation employee Tim Aubrey power washes the walk Wednesday in front of the new Born Learning Trail at Funtopia in preparation for its grand opening Saturday.

NEAL CARDIN/The News-Enterprise

Everyday moments can be learning experiences, and C.J. Quick hopes families learn that lesson at Elizabethtown's new Born Learning Trail.

Quick, co-owner of Brighter Futures Counseling, worked with the city of Elizabethtown, Elizabethtown Independent Schools and other local organizations on the project. The trail is focused on preparing children 5 years and younger for kindergarten, and it includes 10 interactive learning activities.

The trail opens Saturday with a ribbon-cutting and fair at American Legion Park. The Born Learning Trail is outside the Funtopia playground and is one of two in Hardin County.

“The best part of this (trail) is the accessibility,” Quick said. “It’s a third free element for local community members.”

A ribbon-cutting ceremony is at 10 a.m. Saturday and is part of a free fair with face painting and arts and crafts. Community agencies also will have booths to provide families with resources. Quick said each booth has an activity for children.

The fair is from 9 to 11 a.m.

Quick is hoping the trail’s location — near Funtopia and the Elizabethtown Aquatic Park — will draw more visitors who might not be connected with community resources.

“It’s accessible to more foot traffic,” she said.

The trails are an extension of United Way of Central Kentucky’s Born Learning Academies, which are free workshops for parents and caregivers designed to promote early learning.

Quick said all the trails are different, depending on community needs. In Hardin County, she said about half of students are ready for kindergarten.

“That’s dreadful,” she said. “What happens when they start, they’re already behind.”

Quick said she wants the trail to get the community excited about early education and early learning.

“It can be fun,” she said.

Elizabethtown’s trail has been in the works for about eight months, Quick said. A partnership among Brighter Futures Counseling, Elizabethtown Independent Schools, Lincoln Trail Health Department, United Way of Central Kentucky, and the city of Elizabethtown made it possible, she said.

Quick said the city donated the space and labor. Crews converted an area of grass into the trail, which is a half-circle paved path. Louisville Paving and Vulcan Materials donated trail materials.

Quick said she is looking forward to seeing children and families take advantage of the trail.

“I’d love to see a million of them,” she said.

Katherine Knott can be reached at 270-505-1747 or [kknott@thenewsenterprise.com](mailto:kknott@thenewsenterprise.com).

#### MORE INFORMATION



📷 +3

Born Learning trail unveiled

### Katherine Knott

Katherine Knott is an education reporter with The News-Enterprise.