

**Childhood Readiness and Success Team Notes  
November 9 & November 16**



**Team Goal: In Carroll County, all children are ready for Kindergarten and achieve at or above grade level success by the end of third grade.**

Attendance: Nov 9 – Emily Benson, Martha Miller, Patty Poulin, Gail Yalenezia, Lara Preece, Kristin Groves, Kathy Keene, Nancy Coville, Carol DeLaurier, Howard Cunningham, Cyndi Paulin  
Nov 16 - Martha Miller, Patty Poulin, Gail Yalenezia, Lara Preece, Kristin Groves, Kathy Keene, Kate Moore, Kathleen Carrier, Howard Cunningham, Cyndi Paulin

**Done/What Next:**

Finished improving the Kindergarten Checklist including adopting the PIES format; P=physical, I=intellectual, ES=emotional & social because is simple to remember.

**Next:**

- Draft introduction to frame the use of the checklist. (Include a brief “why”?)
- Kristin will put it into a Family Friendly format – 1 side with the “what” (checklist) and the other with the “how” (suggested activities). Thank you, Kristin!
- Get parent feedback about the family friendly format
- K-teacher & early childhood educator communication
- Get parent input about what will support them in their role as their child’s first teacher

**Discussion**

What & How - The team met for two working sessions to improve and finalize the Kindergarten Readiness checklist building upon the work previously done by the team and utilizing the input from the Community Conversation on September 27<sup>th</sup>. The approach was to divide the task into two parts; 1) the “what” - the benchmarks of Kindergarten readiness and 2) the “how” - what parents, early childhood educators and the community can do to support children to be ready for Kindergarten.

Standards but not standardization – Adopting common standards for Kindergarten Readiness allows early childhood programs, community programs, parents and schools to aim in the same direction. The team is not advocating standardization on how to achieve them nor a set in granite approach that might discourage parents from even trying. However, there are identifiable benchmarks that indicate a greater likelihood of success that make sense to pay attention to and work toward.

Timeline – the goal is to move the Kindergarten Readiness Checklist to completion because the longer we take with that step of the work, then the longer it takes to benefit children & families. We will then work on the next steps of the best way to reach out to parents.

Parent input – parent input is critical to the success of the effort

- Good to have some parents review the checklist for parent friendliness.
- Need parent input about what would work best to support them in their role as their child’s first teacher.
- Use people who have good connections with parents to help us reach out.

K-teachers/early educators communication – in feedback from the Community Conversation, both K-teachers and early educators stated that they wanted to reach out to each other to increase communication. Group agreed that this is something to think about facilitating to move forward.

Social media – facebook is one strategy to reach out to parents. Can have a website with information for parents and use facebook posts as a prompt to get them to the information. Explore this and other strategies further.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, December 7 at 6:00 pm at the SAU 9 Professional Development Ctr. (Let Cyndi know if you are attending from “the south” and want to carpool from the Tri-County CAP office.