

Spirited dialogue at Kindergarten Readiness event

Kindergarten Readiness is more than ABCs

Increasing communication including visits between pre-schools and Kindergarten staff was one of many ideas that were sparked during a community conversation about Kindergarten readiness in Carroll County. The forty-five early childhood educators, Kindergarten teachers and community members learned how many different perspectives there are about what Kindergarten readiness means and how different the expectations of children can be from one classroom to another.

There was wide agreement that helping more children come to school ready to learn takes a team effort with families, schools, pre-schools and the community all holding a piece of the puzzle. The outlook was optimistic that developing a shared picture of what Kindergarten Readiness looks like would go a long way toward helping early childhood educators, schools, parents and the community to do a better job of working in the same direction.



Concerns ran the gamut from pushing young children too hard to the number of children who don't have access to early childhood education at all. This led to one of the most burning questions of the evening. "What can we do as a community to increase access to pre-school for all children regardless of income?" Additional key questions identified were, "What are the best ways to connect with parents who are 'home-schooling' their children?" And, "How can the community better support the many grandparents who are raising a second generation of children?"

The lively dialogue and the clearly visible deep commitment to improving the success of all our children was summed up best by the written feedback comment "We can do anything that we set our mind to."

The conversation was hosted by the Carroll County United Childhood Readiness & Success Team. The team's goal is to support communities in Carroll County to work together so that more of our children come to school ready to learn as a foundation for long-term success.

Public participation is requested at the follow up meeting on October 12th which will focus on working on a description of Kindergarten Readiness that could be used across the county. Anyone interested in helping with this is invited to attend the 6:00 pm meeting at the Tri-County CAP Family Resource Center in Tamworth.

Carroll County United was founded on the knowledge that communities do better when citizens, organizations and businesses use their collective strength to achieve common community goals. CCU is an initiative of the Lakes Region United Way. LRUW advances the common good throughout central NH by strategically investing in education, income and healthy communities—the building blocks for a good quality life. LRUW partners with people and organizations who bring the passion, expertise and resources needed to get things done. Find out more at CarrollCountyUnited.org.