

## Childhood Readiness and Success Team Notes – November 17, 2010



**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: Nancy Coville, Jen Karnopp, Cyndi Paulin (Howard Cunningham, Carol DeLaurier, Jay McIntyre, Karen Gerdts, Shawna Puglia have time conflicts)

Next Meeting: December 15, 6:00 pm at Bearcamp Valley School with a presentation by Jackie Sparks about Watch Me Grow.

The team reviewed all of the information provided by the elementary schools in response to the team survey. Some initial observations include:

- None of the schools have a formal definition for Kindergarten readiness.
- The schools are using a wide variety of tools to assess youngsters as they register for kindergarten. Many of the schools are also assessing the kids in September. The information gathered from the screenings and assessments are primarily used for planning the makeup of classes, planning group and individual instruction, and identifying children who might need additional supports or services.
- The schools are using many different tools to track children's progress.

### Discussion & Opportunities:

- This team should start by focusing on four year olds and what efforts could be undertaken in the community to help better prepare them for kindergarten.
- Working with center-based early childhood providers and home providers around Kindergarten readiness and trainings they might need would be an important way to improve children's readiness. (It was noted that the education for childcare providers is much better than the past.)
- Children's Unlimited is using the Brigance as part of a grant –believe that it is suggested to assess about six weeks after the kids start to give them a chance to settle in first.
- Jen shared some handouts she gathered from the early childhood conference she went to. The handouts were 'report cards' to the community about how children are doing. She met with one of the staff people from one of these groups. They used a process of looking at the community's assets and needs. Jen will type up these notes and share them.
- Train the trainer workshops will be offered by Parents Information Center on January 25<sup>th</sup>. They are willing to schedule them in Carroll County to align with the efforts of this team. The free workshops are geared toward pre-school teachers and community members and include 1) Kindergarten readiness and 2) Kindergarten literacy and language Team members would like to partner on this and thought it made sense to reach out to Deb Meader to coordinate with what she is already doing.

### To Dos:

- Need to find out where our four year olds are now. We do have some sense about the number of kids attending preschool from the various towns as reported by the schools.
- Keep antennas tuned to what other communities are doing to reach the hardest to reach families. Conway Elementary School is having some success with connecting with hard-to-reach parents once students are actually in school.

- At the next meeting Jackie Sparks will present the watch me grow program to the team. Check in with the team regarding attendance for this meeting.
- Get a copy of the handout 'Preparing your child for Kindergarten" that is distributed by Carpenter school.
- Ask follow up questions where information is missing or unclear.
- Send the draft report out to the schools to give them an opportunity to add or modify information.
- Reach out to schools we haven't gotten information from yet.
- It was suggested that this team utilize social media tools especially Facebook, Twitter and a blog. Past meetings raise the possibility of also using texting and looked at the example of text4baby.

Team meeting day:

The team is struggling with identifying a meeting day that would work for all the members. Two of our parents who are key participants cannot attend on the same day of the week due to differing schedules.