

PreK Leadership Team notes 11/28/17

We began by debriefing the professional development that we hosted on 11/21/17. Two kindergarten teachers were available to discuss and answer questions about what skills and behaviors students come to kinder with that make their journey as smooth as possible. When discussing, we focused our conversation about these three questions:

- What worked? (What content, practices or structures should we continue doing?)
- What could have been improved?
- What did we learn?

Some of the comments and ideas that were shared were:

- Felt like a successful evening
- Reinforced good preK programming
- Informal dialogue with kinder teachers felt good
- Kudos to Tom and Amanda for doing a great job sharing
- Would love to see a Potty training 101 video with Tom
- Appreciated that we were all together with a common goal

Then we moved to review our list of action steps – check in on the high priority actions and prioritize next steps. Here's our list:

- Share criteria for social/ emotional readiness – develop a continuum modeled after academic standards
- **Create and distribute a reasonable checklist of readiness characteristics – to be created by the preK – K collaborative**
- Create and distribute developmental milestones (similar to those shared by medical practitioners – but geared specifically to education)
- **Send out weekly/ monthly emails to those who opt in of tips for parents and providers**
 - Form has been created
 - Blurb has been written for next Community Ed catalogue about our leadership team
- **Offer monthly professional development (with CEUs provided)**
 - November 21 – kindergarten teacher panel – kindergarten teachers have determined
 - December 19– provider networking
 - Other ideas: Curriculum Development, how to teach alphabet, general prek teaching strategies, share the why of fine motor development with ideas on how to support growth
 - Idea: survey providers to determine what other topics they may be interested in
 - Idea: Work to ensure that CEU meets home daycare criteria

- **Continue preK – K collaboration**
- Ensure that at meetings we have some time dedicated to what steps people are taking to make progress toward our kindergarten readiness goal
- Create videos of kindergarten activities followed up with ideas about how providers can lay a foundation leading to success
- Share structure and content of KAT
- Networking time needs to recognize that being a provider is a business and therefore there is legitimate competition while acknowledging that we're here to work together to support our children
- Share a breakdown of skill development in kindergarten by trimester
- Outreach to family, friend and neighbor daycare
- Create a Hasting PreK Facebook page (will roll out at December networking PD)

Response to list:

- Get the work out so more people attend
- Make a flyer to share with list of providers
- Craft language to ensure inclusivity
- Need PD around social/ emotional
- Perhaps we could offer a live webinar
- Checklist will be created December 14 with the PreK – K collaborative group
- PreK to K will draft developmental milestones at a later meeting
- Emails/ marketing
 - Send out post cards
 - Flyer to providers for parents
 - Put on community education website
 - Put notification up on district news on website
 - Could we have a tab on elementary website leading to community ed PreK?
 - Put on providers page
- January PD will be hosted by ECSE – talking about the process into early childhood special education services
- February PD will be hosted at the library focused on early literacy
- March PD may be focused on the Kindergarten Assessment topics
- December PD is focused on provider networking. Some topics to explore may be:
 - What resources do you use in your program?
 - What is the structure of your day?
 - What's the favorite thing you do in your program?
 - Where are you working to grow?
 - What does your school calendar look like?
 - How do you introduce the alphabet?
 - What activities do you do for number sense?

- What are some of your favorite websites/ resources?
- How do you help kids grow socially/ emotionally? In other words, how do you help kids with frustration, recognizing feelings, making good choices, helping them to calm their bodies, how do you intentionally praise? Build positive relationships? Work on friendship?
- Idea: Offer an exit slip at the end of each PD to collect feedback and ideas for future topics

Given the work that hasn't yet been completed, we looked at what our priorities were. Here are the ideas shared:

- Market
- How do you build independence for success?
- Market: Same message to all? What's the message? Send in multiple ways
- Social/ Emotional PD
- Build connections with providers
- Detailing the who, what and details of PD for the remainder of the year
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Homework:

Angie and Debbie – create and send post card sharing PD dates, topics and link to sign up for email notifications

Kari – ask if Dakota County will send info out about our PD opportunities

Kelly, Kim and Samantha – once we have digital post card, share with other providers

Kelly, Kim and Samantha – take notes at professional development. Check in and compare then send out to your contacts

Kari – hang up post card in library

Angie – share marketing message with Samantha

Kyle and Angie will lead December PD