

PreK Leadership Team Notes 10/16/18

We began with a quick check-in about how we're intentionally making progress toward our Kindergarten readiness goal areas of literacy and social/ emotional readiness by finishing this prompt:

One thing I've been doing differently (or additional, or enhancing) this past month to support kindergarten readiness in my role has been...

Here are some ideas shared:

- PreK assessments (PreKAT) and encouraging teachers to use the data
- Completing work with the National Association for the Education of Young Children
- Meeting with directors of other non-public agencies
- Conscious discipline (there are free resources and free videos available)
 - Teacher self-assessment
 - Feelings Buddies
 - Safe Place
 - Ways to calm your body
- Literacy – introduce books, writing and ID letters in names, ID letter sounds
- Solving problems and monitoring tone of voice
- Reading to children – Fireflys literacy resource
- Zoo phonics
- Working to help kids solve their own problems
- Letter sheets (particularly lower case e as that seems to be difficult)

Then we took a bit of time to revisit our high priority areas for this school year and narrowed the focus for what's first.

- Social/ emotional readiness continuum (something concrete- and strategies) – High Priority
- Create a website to house various resources and link to community ed and to the elementaries to include: High Priority
 - Committee notes
 - Checklists
 - Opt in link to monthly emails from Debbie
 - K Readiness goal
 - Share how early childhood screening is different than K assessment
 - Calendar of PD events
- Videos – survey kindergarten teachers to determine what are the highest priority skills and then work to determine what Pre K can do to support readiness in K in those areas
- Expand outreach – to HFS and total life care center
- Share more information with parents as to what they can do at home – High Priority

Action step ideas:

- Jenn has begun to create the structure of the website – she'll need content shared with her
- Check in with Kyle about the Calendar (for sharing with parents)
- Tweak monthly newsletter from Debbie to address parents specifically – Angie will check in

Homework: bring in a resource or 2 related to social emotional learning – ideally with ties to what’s “developmentally appropriate” to inform the continuum

Homework: try out a nugget from your resources with students and tell the group how it went at our next meeting

We discussed how we have (or how we could better market our work/ PD). Some ideas shared were:

- Get information to doctor’s offices
- Email blasts to target parent groups
- Facebook posts (Hastings neighborhood group, Mom’s club, MOPS)
- This group reaching out to collegial groups (non-public centers, center-based programs and home daycares)
- Elementary facebook sites?
- Can there be a preK corner on the elementary websites?
- Updates in eNews
- Share more information at preschool screening
- Partner with YMCA
- Article in the newspaper – Mary P will find out who the contact is and if they could attend a part of our December meeting
- Expo (previously the preschool fair)

Homework: Determine which on this list you have connections with that you could take the lead with.

Add to agenda for next month: What products have we created, what information do we have to share? Which pieces should be shared with whom?

Add to agenda for next month: What do we want to share with the paper? Prep

Then we shifted to revisit the PD opportunities:

- October – Ice Cream Social – make and take and network time, hand out calendar of events for the year - cancelled
- November – early childhood screening – when, where, purpose Angie and a few PreK teachers will be responsible for content
- December – Social emotional readiness – unpack ECIPS and share guidance as to how to respond to and be proactive related to early learners’ behaviors Jenn will meet with PreK teachers to support leading
- January – Special education Sarah and Sped teachers will be featured speakers
- February – Literacy with kindergarten teachers (I love to read month) Mary will work with Kindergarten teachers to have as panel speakers
- March – library Kari will work with library
- April – unpacking ECIPS and make and take Jenn will support PreK teachers
- May – ~~assessment~~–Changed topic to summer enrichment. In March, we’ll come up with ideas as to who could be part of a panel (YMCA, library, community ed, parks?) Partnered with a make and take for summer-time use

Finally, we talked about how we do and can market our PD opportunities. Here are some ideas shared:

- Website
- Catalogue
- Sharing with collegial groups
- Debbie – share in her monthly newsletters
- Idea: PreK corner on elementary websites

Homework: Angie will ask Samantha to reach out to Johanna with contact information for center-based program leaders

Homework: Encourage staff to sign up for Debbie's newsletters

Finally, we discussed circumstances and protocol for cancelling classes:

- Weather-related decisions can be made up to the day of
- Guest presenter may have expectations of participants – low enrollment
- For internal presenters cancel if 6 or fewer have signed up
- Angie will email the group one week prior to the PD with enrollment numbers – and encourage the group to share a reminder
- If enrollment isn't 7+ (or number articulated by guest presenter) the preceding Friday, we'll cancel

There was a request to make time during meetings to work through PD details (particularly when it's a make and take event)

This year's meeting dates:

- September 20
- October 16
- November 20
- December 18
- January 15
- February 19
- March 19
- April 16
- May 21

Pre K PD dates for this year:

- October 9
- November 7
- December 4
- January 8
- February 5
- March 6
- April 2
- May 7

Homework: Angie will send out a digital flyer of PD dates to be shared with contacts.