

Great Start Collaborative of Jackson County
School Readiness Committee/C2C Elementary Action Team Meeting
March 15, 2016
4:00-5:00pm
Family Service and Children's Aid



Present: Jean Allison, Jackie Barber, Adam Brown, Bobbie Bryant, Brenda Webster, Andrea McCabe, Laurie Skrzynski, Bruce Van Eyck, Don Tassie, Brenda Davis, Kathy Hoszkiw, Elyia Lamb, Kelly McCloughan, Bob Powell, Irene LeCrone, Deb Powell, Janis Sanford, Elyia Lamb, Kelly Friedland, and Kelly Sheppard.

Welcome & Introductions

- Completed introductions

Review February Minutes

- Reviewed minutes from the February meeting.
- Provided copies of GSC strategic plan and Imagination Library Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS) report. PALS is given to every kindergartener in Jackson County at the beginning of the school year.
- The reports will be emailed.

Backpack/Literacy Kit Review and Discussion

- Columbia's kit includes: book buddy piece, practice folder with letters and ten frames, bump game, games pieces for bump and dice, directions for different dice games, scissors, crayons, white board, maker, easer, and 75 fun ways to practice site words.
- Columbia distributes the kits when the children visit the school for a meet and greet. The parents are provided an explanation of the kits at round up prior to the meet and greet.
- Michigan Center's backpack includes: three books, white board, dry erase marker, workbooks that incorporate letters and numbers.
- Provided as part of screening and explain to the parents how to use the backpacks. GSRP students receive them at the end of the year home visit.
- ABC Academy provides backpacks to GSRP students at the end of the year home visit that include: getting ready for kindergarten, dry erase board, markers, wikki sticks, and a book.
- Kelly Sheppard brought samples of the literacy kits for purposeful transitioning purchased with Great Start Collaborative and Great Start Readiness Program funding.
- The kits were purchased as a group with other counties.
- Literacy kit includes: scissors, glue stick, pencil, pencil gripper, upper case and lower case letters, transition to school journal, lacing shoes, calendar with ideas for kindergarten readiness activities.
- Calendar has the Macomb contact info but we will cover it with labels with our contact information.

- We ordered 1,000 kits for this year.
- Kelly Sheppard spoke to Macomb to talk to how they started their county wide kindergarten transition plan.
- They surveyed programs and found many of the preschools and kindergartens were not being purposeful how to get kids from preschool or home to kindergarten.
- Macomb invited transition teams that included kindergarten teachers, preschool teachers, principal of elementary, and the child care director.
- The teams reviewed research on transition and reviewed their current transition practices.
- There are always kids who always enroll after school starts and many families miss the round up process.
- Schools did a lot of community outreach, and they found families enrolled faster and the children were more prepared to begin kindergarten.
- Connections are needed, and it isn't just you as a school having a round up and expecting parents to show up.
- Macomb's transition teams were told if you participate you will receive the literacy kits for your incoming kindergartens if you have some sort of transitioning event to have families learn about the kit.
- The kits were delivered to the elementary principal.
- Pilot schools need to be identified to begin assembling transition teams.
- Macomb has been doing this for 5 years now and recommended starting slow.
- Suggested provided ideas for connection activities and have a notebook of resources as part of the plan.
- Kits are not backpacks but we have red bags that can be provided.
- Kathy Hoszkiw suggested having a logo added to the red bags by Pro Logo.
- Suggested additions to the kit included: a pencil sharpener because the pencils are not sharpened, site words, the universal alphabet chart on cardstock in color, the 100s chart, laminating pages and including a marker.
- Michigan Center purchases the majority of their items through Dollar Tree.
- The districts could add to the materials is they choose.
- Suggestions for selecting pilot schools: Based on need, people who helped with the entire process, doesn't help with the people who don't have staffing to attend meetings but engagement does not need to be physical attendance, sending out a form to find out who is interested in participating.
- Schools that already do a lot of things will not get the benefits because they don't have needs.
- This committee should make the recommendations and need to consider round up is March and April.
- Districts will be asked to keep in mind that there are private preschools not based in districts that outreach and connections need be included in the plan.
- Macomb requires them to have event to go through the kit need to find out if schools would be open to holding another event to go through the kits.
- Question was asked if there is a central place where all the round ups are posted.

- Community Action Agency puts a list of round ups for together for Jackson County.
- This round up list should be added to the ISD and GSC websites.
- Is there a way for Girl Scouts help go into neighborhood and areas to help get the word out and distribute information about school readiness.
- Create a simple handout where people could access information.
- Jax family newspaper, Toy House, Michigan Theatre summer movies.
- We just set up a preschool hotline and could add a kindergarten hotline.
- The planning process for next year would begin much earlier and will require more than a plan to assemble a transition team