

Great Start Collaborative of Jackson County
School Readiness Committee Meeting
October 20, 2016
4:00-5:00pm
Family Service and Children's Aid



Present: Catherine Brubaker, Wendy, Tammy Cushard, Kristy Storm, Elyia Lamb, Bob Powell, Irene LeCrone, Brenda Webster, Brenda Davis, Kelly Friedland, and Jean Allison

Welcome & Introductions

- Completed introductions

Review September Minutes

- Group reviewed September meeting minutes.

Preschool Data Discussion/Findings/Next Steps

- We use two assessments in Jackson County: High Scope Core or Teaching Strategies Gold
- The programs selected the assessment they wanted to use.
- Each Early Childhood Specialist works with specific classrooms.
- We will also be able to do countywide professional development based.
- High Scope focuses on growth, but you can see the children who are still not at age level.
- High Scope is more functional skills and Teaching Strategies tends to be more academic skills.
- All programs demonstrated growth.
- Math had a huge gain, but it was still below where it needed.
- More children are being screened by special education, and it is being documented so if there is a later referral.
- Statewide literacy is an issue, and the state is bringing in a trainer for the Early Childhood Specialists to provide more support to the classrooms.
- The teachers said they were more likely to implement ideas from the trainings if they have the materials when they leave, so we provide materials.
- Social Emotional is measured by teacher observations.
- The data needs to be accurate to bring in services that are needed.
- Encouraging teaching teams to pull their data every two weeks, but they do not pull bench marks until it is time for conferences.
- Grapeseed is an intentional intervention that is literacy based.
- This is the first year's data, and the children only had 6-8 weeks of Grapeseed instruction.
- This year PALS will have the second year with so children who used the curriculum all year.

- Multiple data sources would help show if low data was curriculum not being implemented with fidelity or if the assessment data is similar.

Kindergarten Transition Kit Distribution Ideas

- The schools who are participating in Building Bridges will receive kits first.
- There will be more available than just for that kit.
- The children we are worried about missing are children who are not in preschool.
- Have the distribution done through DHS for children at risk but not receiving GSRP or Head Start services.
- Community needs assessments would show where the high risk populations are.

Community Partner Updates/Emerging Issues

- Chrissy Blackwell created a flyer to inform the families or community members to sign up for the Great Start newsletter.
- Corn Maze fundraiser for Imagination Library this Sunday 10am-7pm at Red Egg Farm all of the admissions are being donated to Imagination Library
- Great Start to Quality has grants available up to \$1500. Quality improvement plan needs to be in place in Great Start to Quality system. The funding is by license number. Cannot be used for consumption for permanent playgroup equipment, remodeling, and it is tied to items on the Quality Improvement Plan. Contact Kristy Storm with any questions. Next grant cycle Nov 1 – December programs can apply every other grant cycle.
- Bob Powell: Trauma initiative in Jackson...bringing in Handle with Care where police agree to collect information they need to contact the child's school the next day after the child has been involved in something traumatizing. Project Aware is launching a trauma integration approach for all the schools. Piloted some groups and mental health at Di Vinci Secondary school.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at Family Service and Children's Aid