

Great Start Collaborative of Jackson County
School Readiness Committee Meeting
January 17, 2017
4:00-5:00pm
Family Service and Children's Aid



Present: Bob Powell, Jean Allison, Andrea McCabe, Tammy Cushard, Kathy Hoszkiw, Gretchen Dula, Cathy Brubaker, Wendy Bell, Jackie Barber, Brenda Davis, Kelly Sheppard, Chrissy Blackwell

1. Welcome & Introductions

- Completed introductions and shared what we did over Christmas break.

2. Review November Minutes

- Group reviewed November minutes.

3. Kindergarten Transition Kits

- Kelly explained the kits and how they invite parents to help get kids ready for kindergarten.
- Last year we paid for 1000 kits, we would like to boost the number to get one in the hand of every kindergartener. We have the money for 1500, and with upcoming grant ideas we would like to get to 1700 (PALS this year was in the 1600's).
- Would like to add our logo and contact info to the front of the GS booklet rather than adding stickers.
- Addition ideas – crayons, pencil sharpener, social-emotional book? Jean and Catherine will look into possible freebies.

How to train parents on the kits

- Put a large sticker with directions on the front of the writing journal, this will eliminate parents trying to get their children to be exact with spelling/writing.

- Have preschool teachers present at kindergarten roundups to open the kits with the kids. This will also build a bridge to show children that kindergarten is a safe place.

How to distribute the kits

- Make kits available at kindergarten roundup (early spring) AND preschool parent teacher conferences (May). Giving the kids kits at the end of the school year will help eliminate “summer slide.”
 - How to make sure kids don’t get 2 kits? Review, rather than give, the kit at parent/teacher conferences to see if they received one at roundup. Give if they haven’t received one.

How to involve administrators in this process

- Last year we gave the kits to elementary schools and if they wanted them they needed to fill out a form. We then asked the schools to tell us how they would train parents on how to use the kits. This year, we could ask if any preschools will be represented at their roundups. This will ensure kids are learning how to use the kits.

4. Community Partner Updates/Emerging Issues

- Andrea McCabe shared the Jackson Area Early Childhood Conference flyer, which will be taking place Saturday, March 25th at Baker College.

Next Meeting: February 21, 2017 from 4:00-5:00 PM at Family Service and Children’s Aid