FAMILY ACTION LEARNING TEAM
Meeting Minutes
Date: February 20, 2017

Meeting Participants: Amber, Jackie, Jodi-Ann, Keayba, Melissa, Octavia, Will
Ready/Ready Staff: Rachael Burrello
Facilitator: LaMonica Mitchell

SYSTEMS CHANGE TARGET: Engage families as partners and change agents in the community

A. Agenda Item: Report Out from Ready/Ready Steering Committee Meeting

Summary of Discussion	Action Items
Amber Robinson has joined the Steering Committee for Ready for School, Ready for Life (Ready/Ready). The Steering Committee decides on the priorities and order of business for Ready/Ready, and guides the work of the initiative. The Committee has made a commitment to becoming more diverse to better represent the richness of Guilford County's population. At the Committee's February meeting, The Duke Endowment, Say Yes Guilford, and Schoolhouse Partners were special guests. The Duke Endowment and Say Yes Guilford are funding a study by Schoolhouse Partners, to understand the funding for programs and services for children 0-5 in Guilford County. They will understand where the funding is coming from, where it is going, and where we can fill in gaps. The meeting also included a live demonstration of the Electronic Referral Network (ERN), which the Family ALT learned about in September. The ERN allows providers to make referrals to each other quickly and confidentially through a secure web portal. The system lets providers send intake information so that families do not have to fill out the same paperwork over and over again, and sends follow-up reminders to providers to make sure that families receive services. The Steering Committee meeting included a brief presentation on the Facebook pages that Family ALT gave feedback on in September 2016. Families shared that they are happy to see their suggestions were implemented so quickly. The goal of Ready/Ready is: each child in Guilford County enters kindergarten ready for school and ready for life. The Steering Committee and Family ALT are both permanent parts of Ready/Ready's structure, and their work will help to accomplish the goal. Family ALT members serve in three key roles in their work: • Consultants who offer perspectives and feedback about how we can better prepare children in our community for kindergarten. • Partners directly involved in the design and decision making related to programs, projects, and plans within Guilford County's early childhood system.	**FAMILIES**: Click here to learn more about The Duke Endowment. **FAMILIES**: Click here to learn more about Say Yes Guilford. **FAMILIES**: Click here to learn more about Schoolhouse Partners. **RACHAEL & AMBER**: Give the Family ALT more information on the Electronic Referral Network as it becomes available. **FAMILIES**: Click here to see the Fabulous Fives Facebook page. Click here to see the Incredible Infants Facebook page.

• Change agents who do what matters to families and galvanize others to join them. Families shared that they all have different expertise to offer based on what they know and have experienced. They know they are not the only ones having these experiences, and want to help other families and the community as a whole.	
B. Agenda Item: Developing a Video Script	
Summary of Discussion	Action Items
At the January meeting, families discussed how challenging talking to and interacting with infants can be. Many families do not know the importance of doing these activities because they don't know about brain development, and how infants are learning at this important stage in their lives. The team did a quick partner discussion on the following questions (see the end of this document for more details): • What expertise do we have on the team that we can draw on to develop this script? • What talents can we utilize? • What needs to be said on the video? • What support does the team need for filming the video? The Family ALT will create an educational video for parents who don't know the importance of communicating in a way that helps infants develop and learn to interact. There are five domains of kindergarten readiness, and communicating with infants helps them grow in all five: • Approaches to Play & Learning • Emotional & Social Development • Health & Physical Development • Language Development & Communication • Cognitive Development With children, communication doesn't have to be lengthy. Just talking to your infant about the things you are doing around the house can help add vocabulary and build their brain. It's important to use real words with babies (not "baby talk") because they learn language from their caregivers. But it can feel awkward talking to an infant, because they can't talk back. Families did a quick roleplay exercise to develop topics for the script. See the attached script for more details. Families understand that people want to relate to people who are like themselves, so sincerity will be an important quality for the video to have. Another important quality is good information – the video needs to share best practices in the advice it gives. The team raised some additional considerations for next steps in producing the video: • It would be good to show some examples of interacting with infants, maybe in a follow-up video • The team wants to produce a video that is "audience-worthy," and would like to explore the possibility of having some video editing done.	**FAMILIES**: Click here to learn more about the five domains of kindergarten readiness at every stage of development. **FAMILIES**: Visit www.GetReadyGuilford.org to see examples of the kind of information Ready/Ready promotes about early childhood and child development. **RACHAEL**: Type out the video script and send it to families to review.

Meetings will be the 3rd Monday of each month. Here's the schedule for 2017:
Locations TBD

- **Monday, March 20, 5:30 to 7:30 pm**
- **Monday, April 17, 5:30 to 7:30 pm**
- **Monday, May 15, 5:30 to 7:30 pm**
- **Monday, June 19, 5:30 to 7:30 pm**
- **Monday, July 17, 5:30 to 7:30 pm**
- **NO MEETING IN AUGUST**
- **Monday, September 18, 5:30 to 7:30 pm**
- **Monday, October 16, 5:30 to 7:30 pm**
- **Monday, November 20, 5:30 to 7:30 pm**
- **Monday, December 18, 5:30 to 7:30 pm**

EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEMS CHANGE PRIORITIES – GUILFORD COUNTY

1. Ensure all new parents are connected to critical early childhood information and community supports/services.
2. Connect more young children and their families to needed services by embedding coordinated developmental screening and referral processes into settings that provide services for families with young children.
3. Improve family access to needed programs through the creation of an effective referral and coordination network for young children and their families.
4. Leverage and expand early literacy resources/services to meet community need by determining and launching priority program and system changes.
5. Leverage and expand parenting resources/services to meet community need by determining and launching priority program and system changes.
6. Improve school readiness by addressing affordability and accessibility of high-quality child care in Guilford County.
7. Create seamless and easy transition experiences for children and their families by aligning Pre-K and kindergarten priorities, curriculum, and transition processes.
8. Ensure the local early childhood system is responsive to and respectful of family needs and voice.
9. Increase public demand for school readiness by implementing a public awareness campaign focused on building community buy-in about the importance of early learning and development (0-8).
10. Embed continuous improvement orientation within the local early childhood system.

OTHER WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Ways to stay involved in Guilford County once your children reach kindergarten:

- Guilford Parent Academy (through Guilford County Schools) -- visit http://www.gcsnc.com/pages/gcsnc/Departments/Guilford_Parent_Academy
- School-based opportunities through PTA and other school focused activities, or to volunteer through GCS.
- The Say Yes Guilford Pre-K to Grade 5 Task Force has three sub-groups that focus on different parts of the Pre-K to Grade 5 pathway. Talk with Amber, Mary or Rachael to get connected.
    - Kindergarten readiness
    - Reading at grade level by the end of Grade 3
    - High stakes proficiency in ELA and Math by the end of Grade 5
- Ready/Ready Design Teams, to work on designing parts of the system around each of the 10 Key Priorities. These teams will not have age limits, and family voice will be critical to their success.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS FROM TEAM DISCUSSION

- What expertise do we have on the team that we can draw on to develop this script?
    - Personal experience – everyone is a parent or caregiver
    - Research
    - Family, friends, word of mouth
    - Parenting classes
    - Experience as moms
    - Nursing background
    - Access to audience of new mothers
    - Technical experience with doing videos
    - Parents with infants
    - Male perspective
- What talents can we utilize?

    - Professional background
    - Problem-solving
    - Creative thinking
    - Using trial and error
    - Our experience and personal strengths – what you feel you're lacking, someone else is strong in
    - Experiences that we bring to the table as parents/caregivers
- What needs to be said on the video?
    - Talking with an infant is very important, not baby talk, but truly interacting the same way you would with an adult.
    - Making babies feel safe and meeting their needs is important.
    - Speaking peacefully and directly, making eye contact.
    - Singing is also important.
    - Touch on fathers' experience.
    - Emphasize the need to bond with children even in the womb by speaking, reading to, singing to them.
    - Continuing with appropriate communication and touch after they're born.
- What support does the team need for filming the video?
    - Technical support, equipment, actors
    - Location