



FAMILY ACTION LEARNING TEAM

Meeting Minutes

Date: March 20, 2017

Meeting Participants: Amber, Keayba, Sean, Will, Jackie

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 NCECF Webinar	
<p><u>Summary of Discussion</u></p> <p>Amber and Rachael gave a report-out from a webinar hosted by the NC Early Childhood Foundation, to talk about how the business community is making third grade reading a priority.</p> <p>A group of NC CEOs are members of the Business Roundtable, which has released a report called “Why Reading Matters and What To Do About It.” The report talks about how early literacy skills are important for later success in life, and how U.S. children are not on track. (See the end of this document for additional details.)</p> <p>Businesses can be strong partners with educators to prepare young people for school, life, and career. Coming together to help children in the earliest years is a great solution because it has the greatest effect, and the greatest return on investment.</p>	<p><u>Action Items</u></p> <p>FAMILIES: Click here to learn more about the NC Early Childhood Foundation</p> <p>FAMILIES: Click here to read the Business Roundtable report</p> <p>FAMILIES: Click here to learn more about how Smart Start and NC Pre-K are making a difference in North Carolina</p>
B. Agenda Item: Feedback on Video Script	
<p><u>Summary of Discussion</u></p> <p>Last month, the Family Action Learning Team started putting together a script on how parents can interact in an educational way with infants. Families read through the draft script (attached) aloud and gave feedback.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giving parents positive messages instead of telling them to “watch out for” or fear something is important. • This script gives parents simple things they can do in their everyday routine. • Keeping the videos short is a good idea. • A key message is: talk to your child like they’re any other person, and don’t be afraid to play with them. <p>(See the end of this document for additional feedback.)</p>	<p><u>Action Items</u></p> <p>FAMILIES: Read through the attached script and send any additional feedback to Rachael RachaelB@getreadyguilford.org</p>
C. Agenda Item: Filming the Practice Video	
<p><u>Summary of Discussion</u></p> <p>Families practiced filming two video segments of ad-libbed content based on talking points from the script. New content in the practice videos emphasized supporting new parents with reassurance that they are not alone out there, and with strong support networks. Families don’t just want what is best for their own children; they want what is best for all children and families.</p>	<p><u>Action Items</u></p> <p>FAMILIES: Stay tuned for more info on the practice videos!</p>

Meetings will be the 3rd Monday of each month at His Glory Child Development Center, 3223 Yanceyville St. Greensboro. Here's the schedule for 2017:

- 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 Business Roundtable Webinar

- By 2020, two-thirds of all jobs will require education and training beyond high school, but only 42% of North Carolinians have that education level.
- Nationwide, experts predict a shortfall of 5 million workers by 2020.
- Up until 3rd grade, children are learning to read; after that they are reading to learn, so 3rd grade reading proficiency is especially important.
- As of 2015, 62% of North Carolina 4th graders do not read on grade level.
- The Business Roundtable report includes 6 policy recommendations. NC CEOs have 3 recommendations based on those:
 - Implement a comprehensive, aligned birth-to-age-8 system with clear accountability
 - Develop connected data systems that track children's progress
 - Expand access to NC Pre-K
- Expanding NC Pre-K is part of the governor's proposed budget.

Additional Details from Script Feedback

Scene 1 feedback:

- It's good to tell parents to just try talking to their infants, and let them know that talking, singing, and playing with the child at home is having a positive impact. Little things you do every day will stick with your baby.
- The scene is smooth, and doesn't give parents all the "fears," it's just informing the parent of something they may not have known. It addresses a fear or concern and tells them in a simple way how to address it.
- You don't have to do anything special or use "baby talk," just talk to your child the same way you'd talk to anyone else. It's just about communicating.
- This scene lets people know that talking to infants is really easy and it's making a difference. It's just about what you do every day.
- The fact that it's "short and sweet" is good.

Scene 2 feedback:

More information on why reading to infants is important:

- Reading is another way of hearing the parent's voice, building trust and recognition.
- Books help with sensory development – seeing colors, getting to see letters even if they don't know what they are.
- Tactile recognition in books for babies is important.
- It helps with sensory development and voice recognition.
- A good way to get a baby to rest is the sound of your voice, and a good way to have something to say is to read a book. It develops communication skills. Maybe it will help calming the baby down, and you're tackling the developmental part as well.
- Books build a relationship with whoever's reading to the kid.
- It's never too early to introduce a book, having board books and cloth books are great because babies learn by putting things in their mouths.

Feedback on the scene:

- We have to address the fact that the new parent in this scene is tired and doesn't know what to do. New parents are often in "panic mode," and need extra support.
- This could be a good point to emphasize utilizing your support system – "I'm willing to come sit with the baby while you get some rest," that's something we can stress.
- Encourage someone to be someone else's support system.

Scene 3 feedback:

What else can Dad do to bond with his child?

- Be the “commentator” and describe what they’re doing or watching.
- Take the baby on a walk. Point out animals and other things as you explore together. If you see birds flying, talk point them out and talk about them.
- Interact with a pet and talk about how you are interacting.
- Get away from the screen as much as you can.
- If you’re watching sports, the baby doesn’t have to look at the screen, but you can talk to the baby and you don’t have to sit there and watch a good game all by yourself, you can share that experience with the baby. Put his hand up and give him a high-five when your team is doing well. There’s a lot to say when you’re watching sports, and you don’t have to come up with something to say to your baby – just tell them what’s going on in the game.
- Play with your child. You have a little person there you can play around with and act silly and have fun.

Additional Details from the Practice Video

- On the first practice video featuring two dads, it was good for the new dad to get reassurance that what he was thinking wasn’t wrong, and at the same time know that he can learn.
- The experienced dad was letting the new dad know that he’s not alone out here. We all run into obstacles, and with a little advice and a pat on the shoulder, you can get it together.
- Because we had two men doing the scene, it would speak to men.
- Showing the importance of the support network is crucial. It’s important for men because there may be a lack of men in the home.
- “Extending a hand” to a new parent is important.