

# Every Child Ready for Kindergarten - Potential Strategies

## Working with Parents

- Facilitating making connections for parents and what they need
- Connected to school
  - Public school boot camp so parents know what to expect
  - Kindergarten readiness programs for parents
- Make connections with parents when new baby is born – what library can do for them
- LAP bus – make it easy for parents to access those services
- Mom and dad more comfortable in a safe environment letting kids explore
- Focus on Dads on Sunday afternoons.
- Reading-related
  - Educate and involve parents in getting kids comfortable with books and reading
  - Awards for parents/family for reading offering incentives from partners
- Model the way for parents to play
- Parents don't know what they don't know – community resources
- Mobilizing adults to help
  - Build a coalition of parents to teach other parents – we are the facilitators
  - Mobilizing grandparents and other interested adults

## Circulate things

- Circulate resources and ideas for temporary caregivers
- Circulate toys for creative play

## Website ideas

- Construct web and text parenting tips on what kids need to know
- Put online resources together
- Have skills and milestone checks listed on website
- Website needs information – what kids need to know on line
- Have checklist posted online or at common locations available ahead of time

## Partnerships

- Schools
  - Be in partnerships and conversations with the school districts – measure if they are helping
  - Partnerships with schools
- Preschools
  - Reach out to preschool providers to give them the resources they need
  - Partner more with preschools
- organizations
  - Help parents as teachers scale up their delivery
  - Shawnee county Health Department, doctors offices, churches – partnerships to share the information
  - Head Starts – be more involved with them
  - Enrichment activities with partners at community centers
  - Leverage existing supports, like churches for parents around kindergarten readiness
  - Help family service guidance center scale up their delivery

## General ideas

- Constant dialog about expectations
- Meet people where they are
- Kid driven, through play, learning independence
- How do we become as big as sports?
- Something that creates a sense of community for kids and family
- They still are kids, so make sure they can play

## Programs & Training

- Programs for parents on what you kid needs to know
- Training for parents, stay at home rather than preschool
- Set up preschool training programs
- Program or pamphlet offered that tells why the skills are important
- Programs to help kids practice the skills they need – more structured programs
- Teach life skills with role playing
- Infotainment ideas
  - each small kids life skills as play
  - Change up SummerFest so it focuses on infotainment
  - Better market existing infotainment
  - Create play schools so kids know what to expect
  - Look for partnerships for more infotainment opportunities

## Materials needed

- Instruction packet – applications for library card, preschool list, Dolly Parton Imagination Library
- Also for new people to community
- Gather information from schools to distribute in Youth Services for parents
- When you enroll school age child there is also a packet for the younger children
- Put information where they go – McD
- Partner with hospitals to send home information packets
- Handout for parents of what need are for kindergarten

## Basic Needs

- Basic needs – fully funded, high quality preschool
- Basic needs – get groups together who are doing the same things (every group feeding kids need to get together)

## For Youth Services

- Implement new service model in Youth Services
- Identify the needs of individual kids – hungry, access to preschool, access to library
- Look at how Youth Services collections are arranged

## In-building ideas

- Stations throughout Library that reinforce kindergarten skills
- Station in Gallery for child to draw stick man without omitting body parts
- Learning trail in Library for parents and kids
- Providing a safe place for kids to learn to become independent – should be child size
- Common phrase at service desks to say to kids and the repeat it back (5- 8 words)

## Out of the building ideas

- Story times at the zoo or in the park and at the farmers market
- Story time to unusual places – hospitals, Kwik Shops