



SELF Newsletter

November 2014

What's the latest with the Our Children Can't Wait Movement?

Our Children Can't Wait is a social change movement working throughout Clark County. SELF, in collaboration with over 100 stakeholders, has created a Clark County Early Learning Plan.

The areas of work adopted by the community include Resources, Connections and Accessibility; Healthy Start; Early Learning Opportunities; School Success; and an overarching goal, Advancing Equity. The plan is focused on birth to five years old.

Another document that is very helpful is the Vision for the Future document which is a strategic plan for the Our Children Can't Wait movement (OCCW).

What is the OCCW School Success Workgroup up to?

School Success: All our children are ready for school and schools are ready for children.

The OCCW School Success workgroup has met twice to define and implement strategies, engage community members and track progress toward the School Success goal. The workgroup has decided to further SELF's kindergarten transition and registration toolkit work that can be found on SELF's website.

The following ideas will be used to move this work forward. As we continue our work, we will further define these strategies and develop action items within each strategy:

Refine the current use of the kindergarten transition form between existing partnerships with large childcare centers and public schools.

Collect baseline data for when children are being registered for kindergarten. Then develop a plan to move the dial on getting more children registered for kindergarten by the first week of August.

Market to kindergarten teachers the validity of using the Kindergarten Transition Summary Form as a means to completing T-PEP (teacher evaluation used in the state of WA) requirements.

Increase the use of the kindergarten transition and registration tools beyond existing large childcare partnerships.

Increase kindergarten readiness, kindergarten transitions and early kindergarten registrations for those children and families who are less connected to the formal early learning and K-12 systems.

Calendar-Events-Happenings

November OCCW Work Group Meetings
OCCW Steering Committee
Marketing-Communications Work Group
School Success Work Group

These groups meet monthly to vet information, set the course for future direction and adapt & integrate the Clark County Early Learning Plan into partner organizations, businesses and early learning programs.

SELF Partner Meeting - Please Join Us!

November 19th, 2014 from 3-5pm at the YWCA Community Room

Early Learning Information

Why do some kids try harder and some kids give up? Children fall into one of two categories:

Those with a fixed mindset, who believe their successes are a result of their innate talent or smarts
Those with a growth mindset, who believe their successes are a result of their hard work

Early Learning Tools

A note from our friends at the Vancouver Housing Authority's Early Childhood Development Program:

PLAY

Get involved with your child's play...and take it seriously! This is a great way to help them to establish their own self worth; create or strengthen a bond with you; receive validation; and build their esteem! Children learn through play! Play all day!!!

Here's An Idea!

Gather some of your preschoolers' favorite items, and a few others from around the house (a spoon, a shoe, etc.). Put a few of the items out in front of your kiddo, and ask him/her to name the items. Now count items. Take one of the items away, and ask your child "Which one is missing?" (They can be looking or not looking when you remove the item, depending on their age!) This will strengthen working memory, recognition, and cognitive skills! And, it's just plain FUN!