



EARLY LEARNING COALITION
OF BREVARD COUNTY, INC.

8/28/2012

6:00-8:00 PM

SPACE COAST EARLY INTERVENTION CENTER 3790 DAIRY RD, MELBOURNE, FL 32904

FACILITATOR:

Sky Beard, Executive Director

NOTE TAKER:

Jessica Beecham, Executive Coordinator

TYPE OF MEETING:

Child Care Chat

Child Care Chat is an informal discussion with Executive Director, Sky Beard. This is not a formal, mandatory Provider Meeting. It is an opportunity for those involved in early learning to get together and talk about topics of interest. Please feel free to drop by one of the following locations to chat about any questions or suggestions you may have.

TOPICS COULD INCLUDE:

- Pre and post assessments for children
- Professional Development needs
- Quality early learning experiences for children
- Business concerns

Minutes

TOPIC:

Location of future Child Care Chat Sessions

DISCUSSION:

- Providers discussed wanting to visit other child care centers, but feel that they may to be welcome.
- Providers would like to have the Chats held at other child care centers throughout Brevard County.
- Providers feel that by having the Chats at other centers it would help eliminate the feeling of "being protective" which seems to come along with the business part of the job.
- Those attending feel that there are enough children in Brevard to "go around" for all the centers.

TOPIC:

Part-time Care

DISCUSSION:

- Providers discussed that more families are looking for part-time care and how this can become a problem when running the business.
- When classes are full, it becomes a problem when a child is only coming a few days a week.
- Providers also feel that the inconstancy for the part-time care is not healthy for the children.
- Providers expressed that sometimes it feels that the needs of the parents trump those of the children.
- The State only bases eligibility on the parent's schedule; however parents need days and time to complete every days tasks or home work that is not covered through their ELC eligibility.
- There was discussion regarding the three (3) different points of view when it comes to subsidized child care:
 - State requirements
 - Families
 - Child care owners/ directors
- It was expressed that it seems early child care is continually losing funding and cannot seem to get a break

TOPIC:**CCR&R “free advertisement”****DISCUSSION:**

- There was a question regarding additional charges for parents along with the Parent Fee that is determined during the School Readiness eligibility interview.
 - CCR&R Provider updates are sent out yearly and the form offers a place where the provider can mark if there is an additional fee.
 - At any time if there is a change, the providers are required to inform CCR&R staff of that change in order to update the CCR&R database.
- The Providers were reminded that the CCR&R database is not only for families receiving School Readiness funding or VPK. It is a free service to all Brevard County members and is a great source of “free advertising”
- ELIS will provide a way for child care providers to update their own center’s information; however at this time it is not know how the CCR&R piece of ELIS will look.

TOPIC:**Monitoring****DISCUSSION:**

- Providers discussed the importance of high quality child care.
- Providers discussed how they believe it is important to have a monitoring tool; however it was felt that the ERS was a tool that concentrated too much on “hand washing” and not enough on the importance of the actual learning environment.
- Providers were excited to hear that the new monitoring tool that the state is considering to use would concentrate more on the interaction of the children and teacher; the tool is CLASS.
 - OLE has adopted CLASS on a voluntary basis; ELC is currently working on having staff trained in order to train providers.
- All Providers expressed that it is upsetting that currently there is no tool that documents and shows that their center is the “High Quality” center they strive for.
- Providers feel that without a monitoring tool what standards can “we hold each other to?”

TOPIC:**State Funding****DISCUSSION:**

- Providers discussed how grateful they were to receive the 15% temporary rate increase February to July 2012 and asked if there was any talk from the State about there being a permanent raise any time in the near future.
- Providers were informed of the new Funding Allocation formula
 - The new formula is based on 2010 Census information and shows Brevard County losing funding for over 1300 children over a six (6) year period (\$5 million).
- Providers feel this information is every important to their small businesses and letters to the government representatives are no longer enough.
- Providers feel planning needs to be done about what to do next
- Some providers feel that there is an importance of child care assistance that is forgotten about among politicians
 - It was stated “Child Care Assistance is most important to keep everything else running.” If families cannot afford child care then they cannot work; if they can’t work they can’t spend; if there is no spending the economy suffers.
- The message that will be presented to local, state and government officials will be that there is no resolution to a problem by just moving funding around the state; the problem is there isn’t enough money to serve the families efficiently and more funding is needed.

TOPIC:**Statewide School Readiness Contract****DISCUSSION:**

- Providers inquired when the statewide School Readiness contract would be completed and implemented
 - Currently the date is set for December 2012 and providers will be contacted as soon as it is ready to be signed

TOPIC:**ELC Board of Directors Provider Representatives****DISCUSSION:**

- Provider inquired about the current Provider Representatives on the ELC Board of Directors
 - Currently there are three provider representatives on the board:
 - Faith-based: Newly appointed Bridget Chiuchiolo of First Friends Weekday Preschool, First Baptist of Eau Gallie
 - For-profit: Pricilla DeNino, The Learning Tree
 - ELC Board Optional Member: Lori Duester, The Children's Place
- Providers expressed that they would appreciate more communication from the provider representatives.

TOPIC:**VPK Readiness Assessment****DISCUSSION:**

- Providers feel the VPK Readiness assessments are not a true representation of their VPK program and that the same assessment is used for all children without considerations of IEP or other special needs

Other Information

Resources:

Each attending center received:

- A copy of the Save the Date flyer for the Provider Meeting on September 19, 2012 at The Knowledge Exchange in Palm Bay
- A copy of The Visionary Director: A Handbook for Dreaming, Organizing, & Improving Your Center
- A copy of Growing Sounds "Becoming My Own Me" Songs for Developing Toddlers by David Kisor
- A copy of Growing Sounds "Beautiful Baby Wonderful Child" Songs for Infants and Toddlers by David Kisor

Special notes: