

Learning Conversation Notes

Name of Partner: Placer County Office of Education – Early Childhood Education Services	Date: July 20, 2009
Conversation Participants: Janice LeRoux, Nancy Baggett, Cathy Ferron, Janice Critchlow, Judy Marston, Mickey Eichenhofer, Darcy Roenspie, Pauline Vlamis-Cowan	
Outcome:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children have access to high quality childcare so that they are supported in their learning. • Childcare providers work with parents for early identification of special needs so that their children are reaching appropriate developmental milestones and receive early intervention services. 	
Performance Measures:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demographics according to the categories mandated in the First 5 Placer Demographic Tool. In addition the following will be required; number of children served directly, the number of children served indirectly and the number of parents/caregivers served. Number of recruited and licensed childcare providers, mentors and protégés will also be included. • Pre/Post assessment scores of the Environmental Rating Scale administered to providers to measure the quality of the childcare facility. • Results of analysis of provider data on training education, networking, and experience to measure the quality of the childcare provider. • Results of assessment completed by providers measuring how children are supported in their learning. • Results of Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) collected from mentors and other providers as appropriate to measure the development of the children. • Number of referrals to the Resource Teacher and the outcomes of the referral to measure the number of children referred due to early identification of special needs and the number of children receiving early intervention services for those identified special needs. 	
Number of Children Served:	1278 children served indirectly
When served:	1/10/09 – 6/30/09
Gender:	
- Male	683
- Female	595
- Unknown	
Ages:	
- Prenatal	
- < 1 year	48
- 1 year	81
- 2 years	135
- 3 years	254
- 4 years	395
- 5 years	363
- Unknown	2

Ethnicity:	
- Alaskan Native/ American Indian	16
- Asian	39
- Black/African American	51
- Hispanic/Latino	185
- Pacific Islander	15
- White	674
- Multiracial	79
- Other	16
- Unknown	3

What is this data telling us about achievement of outcomes?

Demographics

- The majority of the children are 4 and 5 years old.
- The totals, rather than the new numbers, give a better picture of who the program is serving.
- The majority of the children speak English at home.
- There were 66 children eligible for Part B of IDEA, 21 eligible for Part C of IDEA and 1 mental health diagnosis.
- Most of the children are in the South Placer area; this is reflective of where most of the providers are located. However, all major regions are represented during this reporting period.

Parent Demographics

- The majority of the parents are between 30 and 40 years of age and are mostly white.
- Parents with children between prenatal through 5 are participating in training.

Provider Demographics

- Most of the providers are female and are between 40 to 54 years of age, but there is a wide age range.
- The data shows that grandparents are serving as caregivers for their grandchildren.
- The data shows that there are providers participating throughout the county and that there were some children with special needs indicating achievement of the outcomes.

Newly Recruited Family Childcare Providers

- Forty-two childcare providers have been recruited during the year with 29 licensed and 13 recruits pending licensure.

Mentors & Protégés

- Still working with the 6 family childcare mentors from the last learning conversation.
- Of the six mentors 5 speak English and one speaks Spanish, and of the 59 protégés 8 are Spanish speaking and 51 are English speaking.

Pre/Post Assessment Scores of the Environmental Rating Scale

- Training is held for providers on how to utilize the Environmental Rating Scale and how an assessment should be done correctly. Improvement is expected as the providers utilize and become more familiar with the tool, and improve their programs.

- After the training the providers have a better sense of what equipment they need and what is meant by quality childcare.
- Thirty-six newly recruited providers completed the pre and post rating scales.
- Of the 36 newly recruited providers, 31 increased their average scores, and 2 decreased with 5 staying the same. Six of the providers increased their average scores by at least 2 points.
- The greatest improvement was in the areas of activities, space and furnishings and program structure.
- The data shows that the children participating with these providers will have access to higher quality childcare.
- The program staff is most interested in the improvement of the providers' knowledge and environment.

Results of Analysis of Provider Data on Training, Education, Networking and Experience

- Data was collected on 26 new protégés recruited during this reporting period.
- Thirty-six providers completed at least 25 hours of training.
- About 1/3 of the 36 people received a mentor home visit which was partially related to training on the providers environment and the Environmental Rating Scale.
- Fifty percent of participating protégés possess no college units.
- The professionalism of this group is shown through the increase of protégés linked to the Placer County Childcare Online Support Group and the PCOE ECE Services workshops and mentor program.
- During this reporting period the majority of the providers responded that they were entering the field due to job loss. There has been an increase in providers and their spouses entering the field together due to job loss.
- Current providers see the advantage of participating in the support services to increase their knowledge and the quality of their facility to keep their slots filled during the current economic situation.

Results of Assessment Completed by Providers Measuring How Children are Supported in their Learning

- There was an 18% response rate (126) to the 665 mailed assessment forms.
- One hundred percent responded that the ECE services/training/workshops helped them support children in their learning.
- There was a good variety of positive responses to the topic areas showing support
- This data indicated for both new and continuing providers that they have increased their knowledge with the top 3 areas: the knowledge of child development, discipline/behavior management, and caring environment. All of these areas contribute to high quality childcare.

Results of Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ)

- A workshop on using the ASQ was conducted prior to completing the questionnaire.
- A total of 74 ASQ's were distributed and returned (a 100% return rate) during this reporting period.
- Free books were offered to the children in the facility and a book for the facilities library in return for completed ASQ's. This was a successful strategy that will be used again.
- The providers and parents/caregivers are using the ASQ and finding them helpful.
- The data from the 74 ASQ's provided to childcare providers working with parents/caregivers show that the children are reaching their developmental milestones.

Number of Referrals to the Resource Teacher and the Outcome of the Referral

- The staff is proactive in getting the information out about special needs.
- The program is a resource for parents/caregivers/guardians on special needs.
- The program is receiving more calls from other agencies about referral information.

Workshops

- For the year, 665 unduplicated attendees participated in the workshops. Total workshop attendance was 2,129, indicating that some people are coming back more than once.

In what ways will we apply what we have learned from our data?

- Will continue with the Resource Teacher providing training on the Environmental Rating Scale.
- As a large portion of new recruits have no previous experience working with children, PCOE will need to continue to offer workshops and basic support.
- For the first time a mentor home tour was offered for new providers. It proved to be very successful and will continue to be offered.
- Consider adding email responses for the Results of Assessment Completed by Providers form.
- Continue to provide the workshop on using the ASQ with the book incentive.

Next Steps:

- Next Learning Conversation: January 19, 2010, 1:00 – 3:30 PM.