Learning Conversation Notes	
Name of Partner:	Date:
PCOESpecial Education	January 30, 2006
Number of Children Served:	Ages:
68 - Demographics represent 8 classes.	3 yr (22), 4 yr (20), 5 yr (26)
When Served:	Gender: Ethnicity:
July 1, 2005 to present	54-Male 51 - Caucasian
	14-Female 1 - African Amer.
	7 – Hispanic
	1 – Asian
	2 – Alaskan Nat/Am. Ind
	6 – Other

**Conversation Participants:** Louise Cullen, Gail Mohler, Deann Opdahl, Alice Tenscher Dunbar, Larry Moses, Mary Hansen, Stephanie Solomon, Cherie L. B. Klein, Barbara Montague, Ian Moore, Heidi Peacock, Don Ferretti, Nancy Baggett, Mike Romero, Janey Crider, Barbara Guenther

## **Outcomes:**

- Infant and preschool special education teachers will evaluate classroom instructional needs in the areas of communication, self-help, motor, and pre-academics.
- Teachers will identify specialized materials and equipment that will serve to enhance and enrich their instruction in these areas.
- Students will utilize materials to increase active engagement and independence in learning.
- Material/equipment found, through survey report to First 5 Placer, that addresses the
  instructional needs of most students enrolled in a class will be purchased for other
  similarly structured classes and paid for out of PCOE general program or Medi-cal
  reinvestment funds.

#### **Performance Measures:**

- Demographics number of children accessing materials/equipment broken down by age, gender, and ethnicity.
- Survey of effectiveness of materials/equipment in addressing needs in the four content areas.
- Amounts and types of material/equipment purchased relating to the sustainability outcome

# What is this data telling us about achievement of outcomes?

There are children that have needs regarding self-help, communication, motor, and preacademics.

Anecdotally, the use of these specialized pieces of equipment-ie: Cloud 9 pillow, facilitates the achievement of the outcomes by increasing the child's active engagement with peers and providing sensory input. Other examples: switches help to teach cause and effect relationships, balance beam helps motor planning and creates a language experience.

The push chair facilitated taking children out into the community when a wheelchair was either not available or feasible.

Much of the equipment used is affordable or can be improvised in some way so that the methods used in the classroom can also be used at home (scoop spoon).

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

A good strategy was for teachers to observe their students and review the IEP goals prior to the purchase of equipment.

Closure of the school library led to the establishment of the classroom library which helps to develop correct communication and language usage. This has even led to a parent establishing her own library at home. Parents are provided a suggested reading list as well as the Scholastic book orders for affordability.

Success of self-help skills allows for a greater sense of independence, which then can be transferred to academic and functional activities as children become more successful.

Staff is able to communicate the effectiveness of materials in their monthly staff meeting, and in informal groups. Other support specialists also help transfer knowledge about equipment and materials along with techniques for successful use.

List the special equipment by need to help evaluate the effectiveness of the equipment. This would be helpful for teachers to become aware of each others materials and share resources across programs.

PCOE will continue to fund effective equipment from the available funding sources.

## Other points that were made during the conversation:

Funding benefited children in the following programs: Autism Spectrum Disorder, Communication Delays and Disorders, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Functional Skills, and Severe Multiple Disabilities.

All Placer school districts are served by PCOE with the exception of Tahoe/Truckee.

Teachers in collaboration with support staff determined what materials were needed and were surveyed regarding the effectiveness of those materials. The teachers then produced anecdotal stories representing the effectiveness of the materials with regard to the outcomes. See attached PowerPoint presentation for more detailed information and photos.

### **Next Steps:**

It would be advantageous to develop a more formal method for these discussions. Collaboration day for group discussions/sharing could focus on materials and equipment that benefit the children served by PCOE.