

## Learning Conversation Notes

<b>Name of Partner:</b> Placer Nature Center		<b>Date:</b> November 20, 2008
<b>Conversation Participants:</b> Leslie Warren, Linda Desai, Josena Aiello, Megan Krekorian, Janice LeRoux, Nancy Baggett, Cathy Ferron, Judy Marston, Janey Crider		
<b>Outcome:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents, caregivers, and childcare professionals will incorporate “nature play” and appreciation in their children/s learning experience so that these children view their environment with care, curiosity, and enjoy outside play.</li> </ul>		
<b>Performance Measures:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>The results of a parent/caregiver survey to measure what “nature play” parents/caregivers have incorporated in their children’s lives, along with observations of the effect on their children.</li> <li>The results of a teacher/childcare professional survey to measure what “nature play” has been incorporated into the educational environment (e.g., classroom curriculum, displays, library, outdoor time) and observations of the effect on the children in their care.</li> <li>Photos and anecdotes/captions that address the outcomes.</li> </ul>		
<b>Number of Children Served:</b>	276	
<b>When served:</b>	7/1/2008 to 11/20/2008	
<b>Gender:</b>		
- Male	144	
- Female	132	
- Unknown		
<b>Ages:</b>		
- Prenatal		
- < 1 year	26	
- 1 year	4	
- 2 years	21	
- 3 years	78	
- 4 years	144	
- 5 years	3	
<b>Ethnicity:</b>		
- Alaskan Native/ American Indian	4	
- Asian		
- Black/African American		
- Hispanic/Latino	110	
- Pacific Islander	5	
- White	90	
- Multiracial	30	
- Other	23	
- Unknown	14	

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

Demographics (Includes combined data from all three programs: Foothill Discovery, “Our Day Outside”, and PCOE Workshops)

276 children were served directly and 83 were served indirectly.

There was a significant increase in participation from the Hispanic/Latino population. This is greatly a result of partnering with the Head Start Programs.

### Foothill Discovery

Data includes participation from 14 Head Start, Early Head Start, and State Preschool classes at 11 school sites. This is the first year the program has seen participation from the Tahoe area (17 children) and this was due to providing the program at preschools at Kings Beach.

52 providers participated in the program, one of whom was male. Three participants were from the Tahoe area.

Results of teacher/childcare professional survey measuring “nature play” incorporated into educational environment:

Survey results were very positive. Children exhibited interest and curiosity about the activities and exploring nature. Children also experienced socializing behaviors with other children with regard to nature resulting in a new appreciation of their environment. Responses also indicate that the children were “excited” to do the new learned activities again.

### “Our Day Outside”

Results of parent/caregiver survey measuring “nature play” incorporated into children’s lives 15 responses were received.

Parents and caregiver responses indicated they continue to learn with each visit. They are more open to and given the tools to help them engage their children with outdoor activities. 100% of parents indicate they start with nature play in the backyard. This is important as parents realize they can start small and it doesn’t cost any money.

### PCOE Early Childhood Workshop Provider Surveys

30 Providers were surveyed, 12 of these providers participated in both workshops.

Responses indicate providers are finding the information very helpful. All providers say they have incorporated or plan to incorporate some of the activities in their programs. Learning new and practical activities are very helpful and inspiring.

### Photos and Anecdotes

Photos show children handling bugs and using binoculars to observe nature. Parents and children are seen interacting in nature play and looking at plants. Photos also show providers learning new strategies for incorporating nature into their curriculum and sampling new literature.

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

Reduce the length of program to 30 minutes for younger children.

Continue outreach to the Hispanic/Latino community to get Hispanic parents to participate in “Our Day Outside” (an interpreter is available). Additionally, when the Foothill Discovery program goes to primarily Spanish speaking areas it would be helpful to bring the interpreter.

Parents/caregivers comments indicate they are incorporating nature play, and more outdoor activities from the workshops. Continue these workshops and explore more outreach methods, for example having teachers/providers promote use of the Placer Nature Center to parents.

**Other points that were made during the conversation:**

Placer Nature Center staff encourages providers, parents and teachers to set aside additional separate time for nature exploration. This should not take away from the current outside time as children are experiencing many important developmental activities there.

**Next Steps:**

Next learning conversation will be Tuesday, May 19, 2009, 1:15 to 4:45 pm.