



KECCS Update

January 2008
Happy New Year!

Capitol Building Provides Perfect Atmosphere for Parent Leadership Conference

The 87 parents and child care providers who attended the 6th annual Parent Leadership Conference were inspired by their surroundings in the beautiful Kansas statehouse. The October event provided an opportunity for parents to learn about state and federal issues that are impacting their families and communities. They also learned about public speaking and had several opportunities to practice what they had learned. The keynote speaker, Senator Vicki Schmidt, got the event off to an excellent start by sharing issues that impact each and every Kansas family. Breakout sessions included children with special needs and parent involvement in education. When asked how the information from the conference will be used, one parent said "I am going to tell the world. I am ready to fight for my kids and all those following behind them."

The conference was sponsored by several state agencies and not for profits. The primary funder was the Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund.

Plan in Action

In 2003, a group of over 20 early childhood professionals and parents came together to begin development of the [Kansas Early Learning Document](#) – a document that provides a general overview of the skills, knowledge, and abilities young children have or can learn with the help of caring and knowledgeable adults that lead them toward success in a Kindergarten setting. The document contains several sections, including the Guidelines and the Standards sections which can be used to support learning by child care providers, early childhood teachers, administrators, families and others who provide care to young children, birth through age 5. Guidance from multiple state, local, and national sources helped to inform development of the document, including Kansas documents such as the School Readiness Framework, the Kansas Quality Standards, Core Competencies, and Teacher Education Licensure standards.

The Kansas Inservice Training System (KITS) has created [a day long regional training](#) to provide an overview of the Kansas Early Learning document and to illustrate how it can be used to strengthen early childhood programs. The training is divided into three major purposes: one for the overview—the Core Training. The KITS training also provides a half-day to teachers in early childhood special education or early intervention classrooms or preschool classrooms who will use the Standards section to select aligned curriculum, develop lesson plans, or IEP goals and objectives. The other half-day training is focused on using the Guidelines section to plan activities and the environment. This trainings is aimed at family child care providers as well as preschool classroom teachers.

The Kansas Early Learning Document is a strategy under [KECCS Goal 3: Early Care and Education](#).

Your Work = KECCS Plan Progress

Remember to add and update activities to the KECCS Plan through the [Implementation Tracking Tool!](#) Stay current with your activities and have access to agency reports and the latest information on what is happening in each of the KECCS goal areas. **If you want assistance with getting started**, contact Rebecca Gillam at keccs@ku.edu or by telephone at (785) 864-7123.

Tips & Tools

The National Institute for Literacy has free resources available to programs that support and promote early literacy. *Big Dreams, Shining Stars: Toddlers Learn to Read*, and *Shining Stars: Preschoolers Learn to Read* are based on key early literacy concepts and describe in an easy-to-read format what parents can do to support their children's emerging reading skills. The booklets can be downloaded from the [National Institute for Literacy](#) website or by e-mail request to edpubs@inet.ed.gov.

Upcoming Events, Conferences & Training Opportunities

- [Equity in Education: A Strategic Workshop for All Educators](#) will be held on February 20-21, 2008 at the Courtyard Marriott in Junction City, KS. Join in to hear Paul Gorski, internationally-known scholar and activist on educational equity and social justice, and participate in a Poverty Simulator.
- Save the date! The [Kansas Fatherhood Summit](#) will be held on April 2 & 3, 2008 at the Jack Reardon Center in Kansas City, KS. Registration materials and more information will be available in February.

Comment [r1]: Link to "KPIRC equity in education_flier" pdf

Comment [r2]: Link to "Kansas Fatherhood Summit SAVE THE DATE" pdf

- Save the date! **Blending Teaching and Braiding Funding of Special Education, Head Start and Community Services** will be held on April 25, 2008 at Spiritual Life Center in Wichita. The meeting is for administrators and direct service staff from Head Start, Early Head Start, Part C tiny-k, Part B early childhood special education, public and private preschool and mental health partners. You are encouraged to invite your collaborative partners (i.e. home child care providers, Parents As Teachers, other early childhood programs interested in learning more about these unique collaborations)!

Comment [r3]: <http://kskits.org/training/HeadStartCollab.shtml>

The meeting is being coordinated by Head Start Collaboration Office, Kansas SRS Health Care Policy – Mental Health, Kansas State Department of Education, Kansas Department of Health & Environment - Infant-Toddler Services, ACF Region VII Regional Office, and Kansas Inservice Training System.

Registration will be available after January 2, 2008. Contact Peggy Miksch (pmiksch@ku.edu or 785-456-8881) for content questions or Robin Bayless (rbayless@ku.edu, 620-421-6550 ext. 1618) for registration questions.

Do you have an event, conference or training coming up that would benefit other KECCS partners? Let us know, and we will promote it on the KECCS website and in the newsletter, the KECCS *Update*. Send information to keccs@ku.edu or contact Rebecca Gillam at (785) 864-7123.