



KECCS Update

October 2007

Early Childhood in the News

On Monday, September 17, over 150 Kansas legislators, business leaders and stakeholders gathered for the Governor's Summit on Early Childhood in Topeka. The Summit highlighted the rationale for investing in early childhood. Featured speakers included Jack P. Shonkoff, M.D. who presented his work on a science-based framework for early childhood investment and J.B. Pritzker who talked about his philanthropic work and the importance to business of investing in early childhood. Several local news outlets covered the event:

- PreK classes plant the seed of education
http://cjonline.com/stories/091807/loc_200406162.shtml
- Sebelius to push for expansion of early childhood programs
<http://www.kansas.com/457/story/177622.html>
- Kansas lagging in early childhood programs, panelist says
<http://www.khi.org/s/index.cfm?aid=836>
- Sebelius says early education a top priority
http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2007/sep/18/sebelius_says_early_education_top_priority/
- Video: Early childhood education important to more than just children
http://www.49abcnews.com/news/2007/sep/17/early_childhood_education_beneficial_more_just_chi/
- Video: Governor touts early education
<http://www.wibw.com/home/headlines/9838111.html>

Plan in Action

In March 2007, Tiffany Smith-Birk (SRS-Health Care Policy, Mental Health) convened the Early Childhood Mental Health Advisory Council to provide guidance and input on the development of an early childhood mental health plan for Kansas. The Early Childhood Mental Health Advisory Council focuses on Goal 2 of the KECCS Plan, Mental Health and Social-Emotional Development. The Council has three primary activities:

- Establishing an Early Childhood Mental Health Endorsement
- Coordinating early childhood mental health training opportunities
- Involving local communities in identifying and coordinating early childhood mental health resources

With over 50 stakeholders involved, the Council is representative of early care and education, community mental health, and state agencies. The strategic planning process, which is being facilitated by Mary Baskett (KS Head Start Association), will be completed by December 2007 and will provide a framework for the next phase of work. For more information, visit www.kaimh.org or contact Tiffany Smith-Birk at Tiffany.SmithBirk@srs.ks.gov.

Pre K

Pre K Now's national satellite conference – “Raising the Profile of Pre K” – was broadcast to Kansas stakeholders at three sites on October 17. The conference focused on advocacy efforts and featured key local, state, and federal leaders who shared their efforts to support and promote Pre K. Anne Maack, Associate Director of the Kansas Coalition for School Readiness, said that the conference “was helpful for participants to see how the Kansas Coalition for School Readiness fits into the national arena.” A recorded webcast of the complete national conference will be available at www.preknow.org during the week of October 22. For more information about the Pre K work that is being done in Kansas, visit the Kansas Coalition for School Readiness at www.kansasschoolreadiness.org.

Implementation Tracking Tool

The KECCS Plan Implementation Tracking Tool is up and running! Now is a great time to make sure your agency's account is set up correctly, check your activities and agency reports, and add new activities that you have been working on this summer and fall. If you have questions about or problems with the tracking tool, contact Rebecca Gillam at keccs@ku.edu or by telephone at (785) 864-7123.

New Resource

The Kansas Early Learning Inventory (KELI), as part of the Kansas School Readiness Project, is a teacher observation instrument that measures some of the skills that are closely related to school success. A **sample** of the skills on the school readiness observation is now available on the KECCS website.

Comment [r1]: Link to "Sample KELI items" pdf

Tips & Tools

- The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has a National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices, a [searchable database](#) with information about interventions for the prevention and treatment of mental health and substance abuse.

- Washington Learning Systems, through Grant H324Mo20084 from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs, has made available new Infant-Toddler language and early literacy activities that are free and reproducible. The materials, developed by Angela Notari-Syverson, Ph.D. and Judy Challoner, M.S., can be downloaded by going to www.wlearning.com and clicking on the purple button that says "Free Parent Education Handouts" on the home page.

Each of the twenty activities includes an activity description and hints for making the activity fun and developmentally appropriate. In addition to the activities, you can download an activity checklist that helps parents and caregivers notice their children's skills and also cues adults to examine and grow in their own interactions with children.

Upcoming Events, Conferences & Training Opportunities

- **FUNDING OPPORTUNITY:** The Infant Mental Health Conference planning committee has announced an invitation for proposals to hold a local professional development event on the topic of Infant Mental Health/Social Emotional Development. Up to seven (7) awards will be provided to groups who are selected from qualifying applications. The seven awards will be funded in each of the seven new Child Care Resource and Referral Agency service delivery areas. For more information, see the complete [Infant Mental Health Conference Request for Proposals](#). Applications must be received on or before November 16, 2007.
- The [6th Annual Parent Leadership Conference](#) will be held in Topeka on October 26 & 27, 2007. Parents of children birth to age 8 and family child care providers are eligible to attend this **free** conference sponsored by the Head Start-State Collaboration Office.
- The Kansas Head Start Association's Annual Conference – "The Joy of Early Learning" – will be held in Salina on November 15 & 16, 2007. Highlights of the conference include Ruby Payne "Bridges out of Poverty" training, keynote speaker Isela Garcia, M.Ed., the KHSA 10th Anniversary Gala, and seventeen workshop sessions. See the [Conference brochure](#) or visit www.ksheadstart.org for more information.
- 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 [r2]: Link to "Infant MH Conference RFP" pdf

Comment [r3]: Link to "Kansas Fatherhood Summit SAVE THE DATE" pdf

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.