



Early Years '14 Conference

Roundtable Discussion Action Steps

Advocacy:

- 1) Create a Common Message. Our state needs to ensure that we have a common message and we are providing opportunities to use this message. We need to look at “what is it that we are trying to do or say?” What is the problem we are trying to fix or what is the issue that we are trying to convey to the public?
- 2) Building Awareness. After we create a common message – who is the audience that we are trying to convey this message to? We as a state need to look for ways to build a comprehensive awareness campaign around the importance of early learning.
- 3) Parent Involvement. As we build our advocacy efforts, we need to make sure that we are including parents and using their voices.

**Topic Community Resource: Beth Oppenheimer, Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children
boppenheimer@idahoaeYC.org (208) 345-1090**

Hunger/Nutrition:

- 1) Compile local resource lists for families; including Idaho Food Bank, soup kitchen and summer meal locations/hours, SNAP and WIC enrollment information and other hunger related programs. Distribute hard copies of these lists in public locations such as libraries, schools, grocers and churches.
- 2) Develop Eat, Play, Grow education programs.
- 4) Establish new partnerships within the community both to share information about programming that may overlap and to pool resources for increased efficiency.

Topic Community Resource: No Contact at this time.

Impacts of Adversity in Early Social/Emotional Development:

- 1) Not enough parenting classes geared towards 3 to 6 year olds.
- 2) Lack of knowledge among professionals and caregivers about early intervention.
- 3) Need more public education and education with policy makers. Involve community!

**Topic Community Resource: Roger Sherman, Idaho Children’s Trust Fund
shermanr@dhw.idaho.gov (208) 386-9317**

Poverty:

- 1) Resource fairs around the state.
- 2) Resource guide for communities (similar to Self-Rescue Manual for the Treasure Valley).
- 3) Collaboration with other community organizations to work together and create plans of action.

Topic Community Resource: Julie Armstrong, Idaho Commission for Libraries
julie.armstrong@libraries.idaho.gov (208) 639-4158

Third Grade Reading:

- 1) Parent education of what skills are required upon entering kindergarten.
- 2) Public awareness of challenges and barriers to third-grade reading proficiency.
- 3) Figuring out how to reach “hard-to-reach” parents and caregivers regarding kindergarten readiness skills.

Topic Community Resource: Staci Shaw, Idaho Commission for Libraries
staci.shaw@libraries.idaho.gov (208) 334-2150 ext. 151
