

Building a Systemic Transition Plan

The School District of Philadelphia
Office of Early Childhood Education
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Building a Systemic Transition Plan

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead

And, for Transition, School District leadership and commitment are invaluable.....

How We Began...



- Partnered with United Way's Early to Learn (E2L) Initiative
- Hired a Kindergarten Transition Coordinator
- Created Transition Task Force
 - Established Goals/Objectives
 - Researched Best Practices
 - Decided on Model
- Implemented Pilot Transition Program
 - 13 Child Care Providers (E2L) and 9 District Elementary Schools
 - Joint Professional Development – PreK and Kindergarten Teachers (Saturday Sessions)

Refining and Expanding...



- Included all 28 E2L centers and any other child care centers with interest (41) – matched to neighboring elementary schools
- Embedded PD in school calendar – focus on Early Learning Standards, literacy core curriculum and assessment data
- Met with school principals and center directors
 - Established collaboration standards
 - Vetted standards with PreK/K teachers

Refining and Expanding...



- Developed *Kindergarten is Key: Transition Handbook* and *School Readiness Activity Book*
- Required Mandatory Open House Activities at all schools
- Partnered with Please Touch Museum to host social events for PreK and K teachers
- Enhanced District's EC Website – parent friendly
- Involved CEG – transition focus, outreach to all child care facilities
- Included Transition activities in School Improvement Plan
- Provided PD for all elementary principals during summer Leadership Institute
- Used ECEI data to give schools reports on where children were prior to Kindergarten

Where We Are Today...



- Developed *Ready Schools Handbook*
- Identified and trained Kindergarten Transition Leaders at each elementary school
- Provided District wide PD – twice a year to develop transition plans
- Last year: 133 transition plans were returned
 - Examples: Transition Tea
 - Play Dates
 - Kindergarten Teacher doing read aloud at Child Care Center (meet children)
- Stepped up City-wide Kindergarten Registration and Transition Efforts:
 - CHOP, City Agencies, United Way, Using King Day of Service, Free Library, DHS