

# stamford early childhood blueprint

## A COMMUNITY PLAN FOR CHILDREN BIRTH TO EIGHT AND THEIR FAMILIES

### Our Progress to Date, November 2010

#### HEALTH & WELLNESS

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- We have established a working group that is inclusive of critical elements of the healthcare field in Stamford: Stamford Hospital pediatricians and nurses, representatives from Child Guidance (mental health), preschool teachers, the City Health Department's Interim Director, Community Health Centers (oral health), a doctor from Stamford Hospital responsible for Asthma initiatives, and parents. Led by Dr. Madhu Mathur at Stamford Hospital, this has been an extremely effective group of individuals who value the time spent together in committee to address current trends in health of Stamford's young children and their families.
- The Health & Wellness Committee hosted two workshops on Thursday, October 14th for childcare providers and the community at large around the issue of creating nurturing and successful mealtimes. Charlie Slaughter, MPH, RD from the Department of Children and Families, presented an excellent presentation to over 30 childcare providers from across the City and 20 parents. His message of creating structured and nurturing environments for children around mealtimes was very well received.
- The committee has served as a forum for collaborating and sharing of resources that has resulted in important relationships amongst providers that ultimately benefit families.

#### EDUCATION

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- Chaired by Dr. Anne Farrell from UCONN Stamford, our Education Committee is comprised of a diverse group of individuals representing area preschools, the Stamford Public School system, the United Way, and higher education. They are thoughtfully guiding our work forward.
- In partnership with the Stamford School Readiness Council, Family Centers received a grant to work with All Our Kin out of New Haven to train and support licensed family child care providers in Stamford in the Early Learning Guidelines that are now being recognized by the State. This work is now underway.
- The Stamford Public Schools (SPS) hired a Curriculum Associate for Early Childhood Education through federal stimulus funding.
- SPS convened a Literacy Curriculum Committee in Summer 2010 to write the K-5 Literacy Curriculum, following the Reader's and Writer's Workshop model; curriculum writing will continue through 2010-11 school year. There is strong participation from the Education Committee and SPS preschool teachers on this planning.
- A revised Readiness Screening aligned to SPS expectations for phonological awareness, letter ID, and mathematics was put into place in May 2010.
- A new transition folder was created for preschool aged children who are graduating to Kindergarten. The folder identifies which preschool program the child attended and holds child assessment documents. Approximately 600 transition folders were shared with principals in June 2010.



#### PARENT OUTREACH

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- We are in the process of re-establishing committee membership.
- We are partnering with the United Way and the Stamford School Readiness Council to develop a centralized resource network to ensure parents and caregivers know where to go and who to ask for resources.

For more information, please contact the Stamford Discovery Coordinator, Karen Brennan, at 203-348-7711, x. 213 or [kbrennan@uwwesternct.org](mailto:kbrennan@uwwesternct.org).