

**ENFIELD SCHOOL READINESS COUNCIL
KITE COLLABORATIVE
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2024, 5:30 P.M.**



The mission of KITE is to ensure that Enfield's children are healthy, safe, and happy; live in thriving families; and are ready to learn the skills they need to succeed in school and flourish in the 21st century.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS – Carol LaLiberte, KITE Chairperson

| There were 19 members present | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Brianna Beckstrand- KITE | Dr. Gerald Calnen- Board of Education | Stephanie Allery- Parent Ambassador |
| Melanie Dube- KITE | LeAnn Beaulieu- KITE LWG | Kristin Herzig- Parent Ambassador |
| Jennefer Ryan- KITE | Eileen Gardner- ECDC | George Hendrickson- Ujima |
| Hannah Song- KITE | Amy Witbro- Retired EPS/KITE LWG | Carol LaLiberte- CT State-Asnuntuck |
| Lacey Byrne- Barnes and Noble | Leslie Lawlor- PLA | Susan Neville- Retired |
| Marie Pynzar- Town Council | Karen Edelson- Social Services | Kari Auretta- KITE |
| Amy Morales- Social Services | | |

ACCEPTANCE OF KITE MEETING MINUTES- September Minutes

- The September 4, 2024, KITE Meeting Minutes were approved.

SCHOOL READINESS BUSINESS/QUALITY ENHANCEMENT UPDATE

- All 28 slots are full at ECDC.
- McKinney Vento Update:
 - Numbers of homeless students provided by Julie Carroll, McKinney-Vento Liaison: Have increased by 4 from September
 - PK: 0
 - K-2: 4
 - 3-5: 5
 - Middle School: 9
 - High School: 8
- Early Start:
 - The OEC Early Start CT website ([Early Start CT - Connecticut Office of Early Childhood](#)) has been updated. The new website includes...
 - Updates to the funding process
 - Details on the funding formula for providers currently receiving funding from Child Day Care (CDC), School Readiness (SR), and/or State Head Start (SHS)
 - Resources shared at past listening sessions in Spanish and English.
- Bridging the Gap: Bridging the Gap is a new initiative developed by a developmental pediatrician at CCMC that ECDC is participating in through next year. The goal is to improve outcomes for children at risk for autism by providing training in MCHAT screenings to early childhood providers and connecting families more seamlessly to Birth to Three and other resources. We are beginning some focus groups and training sessions. FRC Parent Educators and the Early Childhood Social Worker will also be part of this project.
- Quality Enhancement- Pyramid Model- Melanie from EastConn continues to coach our four rooms; another staff member came and did the assessments of the classrooms to gather data. This data will be used to create goals. We have completed the home visits for our children entering the Infant, Toddler and Preschool programs. The staff have given feedback that these home visits have made the children's transitions to their new classrooms smoother. The staff continue to attend the COS classes. Heather shared as a result of COS, staff are more aware of the children's emotional needs and are using the COS terminology of being the "hands."
- Classroom updates: The Preschool classrooms have been busy; they took a field trip to Brown's Harvest to pick pumpkins and went on a hayride. They also had a fall festival on Friday October 25th for all preschool families and siblings. This included trunk or treat. Room 7 the oldest Preschool classroom went to mark twain for trick or treating. New families have signed up for the Sparkler App. The governor visited one of the classrooms for a press conference to speak to changes coming to Care for Kids and the Child Day Care Grant.
- Monitoring: Lisa Carriere completed classroom visits last month and is in the process of completing file reviews and all is going well.

EQUITY- Brianna Beckstrand

- Brianna shared a poem about identity. A sign up was passed around for the remainder of the year.

KITE UPDATES

- **Lacey Byrne- Barnes and Noble**
 - Lacey supports 8 Barnes and Noble stores in the state. She does a lot of work with public schools, nonprofit organizations, collaboratives, and early childcare centers. A great example of that is the collaboration with KITE in securing 200 books for the PLAYPaks in a short timeframe. She spoke to collaborative that if their organization would like to hold a literacy night, author visit, or read-a loud at any of the sites to contact her.
- **Leadership Workgroup Updates**
 - KITE reported on Year 1 to Fund for Greater Hartford and shared Year 2 Plans. KITE would like to welcome our new Program Coordinator, Hannah Song.
 - The 3rd survey for RAPID results are in from September/October. The topic was financial literacy. Enfield had 74 participants and statewide they gathered over 4,000. The next survey will launch in January.
- **Budget**
 - KITE expenditures for FY2024 – August Expenditures: \$9,087.38, September Expenditures: \$10,005.96. You can e-mail Brianna with any questions.
- **Communications**
 - In the month of October KITE published 16 posts.
 - 15 posts KITE specific (Your Voice=Your Vote Campaign, PLAYPaks, Bossome Day, Annual Report Video, Halloween Play Tip/PSA). 1 partner/community content share (Library Book Sale – Big Blue Block/Rec Partnership) 2,300 total reaches | Down 28.2% | 268 total engagements (Up 24.7%) | #1 post PlayPak 1,400 reached 240 engagements. #2 post Bossome Day 503 reached, 195 engagements.
 - PSA video in collaboration with Enfield Food Shelf was shared. The PSA explains how easy it is to shop at the Food Shelf to remove the stigma for families utilizing the service.

AREA FOCUS TEAMS:

- **Result #1: Enfield's Children are Safe, Happy, and Healthy**
 - **Infant/Child Mental Health**
 - KITE attended the ETC Mental Health and Wellness Coalition Kick-Off meeting on September 27th at CT State-Asnuntuck. This event brought organizations, town leaders, youth, parent perspective and legislative officials together to hear about the growing mental health needs of our community across the lifespan. We heard from Initium Health, B. Weyland Smith Consulting, The CT Collaborative to End Loneliness, Office of the Surgeon General, Senator Kissel, Representative Hall, Town Manager Chris Bromson, Lt. Gov Bysiewicz and Senator Chris Murphy. This was an incredible kickoff by Enfield Social Services and KITE is grateful to be part of the Leadership Work Group. KITE continues to be a champion for infant and young children's mental health.
 - The KITE Mental Health Subcommittee is meeting on Monday, November 18th from 4-5 on Zoom.
 - KITE is presenting at the ETC Mental Health and Wellness Coalition Leadership Work Group meeting on Friday, November 22nd.
 - **Sparkler**
 - There are 864 children registered in Sparkler. In the last month 163 children completed the ASQ. The highest areas of referral were for person-social and communication. 69% of completed ASQs were categorized as on track. There was a total of 450 plays logged.
- **Result #2: Enfield's children live in thriving families with strong ties to neighbors and the community.**
 - **KITE/EPS Family Engagement Partnership**
 - KITE partnered with EPS to hold Youth Vote for the 2024 Election. KITE worked with EPS Humanities Director Joel Senez to add in a ballot for children under 4th grade to vote. Additionally, families with young children could register for PLAYPaks designed to keep children engaged so their caregiver could focus on voting. We had 79 families registered for 127 packs, with an additional PLAYPaks going to the Registrars for Early Voting and extras at each polling location.
 - **Parent Leadership Academy**
 - Leslie Lawlor is the new PLA Coordinator. She is currently recruiting new applicants for PLA Class #18. If you know anyone who may be interested, please contact Leslie.
 - **Parent Ambassadors**
 - Stephanie attended the Parent Leadership Community: Building Bridges for Change event on October 24. She spoke at the event about her role as a Parent Ambassador and the power of putting yourself out there. She also spoke how important connection and growth are.
 - Stephanie, Michelle and Kristin met to explore new ideas for community cafes. Some of the ideas they had are focusing on challenges that parents face and to have themed discussions. If you have any ideas for a community café, please reach out to them.
 - **Heritage Fair**
 - Heritage Fair is coming back 2025 in partnership with Enfield Head Start. There will be an announcement in Parent Square to recruit new members for the planning committee. More information to come.
- **Result #3: Enfield's children are ready to learn the skills they need to succeed and flourish in the 21st century.**
 - **3 TO 3**
 - The committee met on October 30. Using feedback from last year, they will be working on setting up a few events for our PK-1 students and providers:
 - Hosting another science night/holding a sensory friendly night as well.
 - They will continue to work with EA (EASTConn) on Play Sparks Learning/digital challenges.
 - Creating a social media campaign on anti-stress/enjoying your kids in the holiday season by doing a handout on brain building through play (targeting 4–7-year-olds).

- Chris Gomeau has been connecting with providers and they are looking to bring back an annual event in February to discuss the age change for kindergarten and its impact on the centers. May 10th is Childcare Provider Appreciation Day.
- They are always looking for new members, if you are interested reach out to Adrienne Snow. The committee meets every other month from 4:00 to 5:00 pm. The next meeting will be held on January 29th
- Family Child Care Providers: Working with FCC Providers has always been one of the components of the FRC Grant, providing support and resources to them. We held a networking meeting last month and had a small turnout of five, but others were interested and could not attend. We plan to continue offering regular meetings for them and our next one will be in January featuring mandated reporter training presented by Melissa Howe (DCF). Our Parent Educator Lisa Carriere will also be visiting those that were interested in a "Traveling Storytime" where she will bring a book to read and an activity if they would like. This is also a place to provide any resources and information on things that could be useful to them, for example Sparkler, or other initiatives that KITE is working on.
- **First Readers**
 - The committee has decided to hold 2 ceremonies instead of 3. The assessment has changed a little due to new curriculum. Students' standards-based data from multiple module assessments will be considered when naming First Readers for the 24-25 school year. They will also be looking at a sensory friendly ceremony. Next meeting is November 13th at 5:00pm at Enfield Public Library.
- **Book Buddies**
 - Don reached out to Brianna for current kindergarten numbers.
- **Rocking Chair Readers**
 - Readers and teachers have been contacted about interest for this school year. We are waiting on a couple of responses and will be matching teachers and readers in the next couple of weeks.
- **2GEN (Tabled)**
- **Play Lab (Tabled)**

ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.