



Enfield School Readiness Council
KITE Collaborative
 Wednesday March 5th, 2025, 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 24 members present		
Brianna Beckstrand- KITE	George Hendrickson- Ujima	Rosalind Swift- Ujima
Carol LaLiberte-CT State-Asnuntuck	LeAnn Beaulieu- KITE	Alena Josephson- Child First
Dr. Gerald Calnen- Board of Education	Lanie Lebrun- Enfield Food Shelf	Kristin Raiche- Enfield Public Library
Kari Aretta- KITE	Melanie Dube- KITE	Amy Morales- Social Services
Stephanie Allery- Parent Ambassador	Kristin Herzig- Parent Ambassador	Danielle Hunter- National University Student
Hannah Song- KITE	Jennefer Ryan- KITE	Cat Merriam- Parks and Recreation
Karen Campbell- NCCCC	Hannah Leonard- Child First	Amy Witbro- LWG
Michaela Dowd- Asnuntuck Student	Crystal Mejia- Asnuntuck Student	Evalina Vinogradova- Asnuntuck Student

Acceptance of KITE Meeting Minutes- February Minutes

- The February 5, 2025, KITE Meeting Minutes were approved.

School Readiness Business/Quality Enhancement Update

- All 28 slots are full at ECDC.
- Early Start: This notification came out today. This is a competitive application for new programs to apply for funding.
 - OEC is pleased to announce an RFA for the opportunity to receive state funding for early care and education spaces. Please check the OEC website for the application and important information here: <https://www.ctoec.org/early-start-ct-request-for-applications-b/>
- Bridging the Gap: FRC and ECDC are participating in a pilot study called Bridging the Gap which will incorporate the MCHAT screening into ECDC and FRC for children up to age 3. Training has begun and we will be moving into the implementation phase in the next couple of months. MCHAT is a 20-question screening tool for children ages 16-30 months. It is a screening, not a diagnostic tool, and designed to see if further evaluation is needed. For ECDC, parents and teachers will be completing and for FRC, parents will be completing.
- ECDC Classroom/Center Updates:
 - We celebrated Read Across America on Monday March 3rd.
 - We welcomed Mayor Ken Nelson, Town council members, Bob Cressotti and Cindy Mangini, Deputy Chief Steven Kaselouskas, the assistant town manager and HR director Steve Bielenda, Erin Riggot, Director of EMS, Jason Neely Library Director, Amy Morales, Kathy from the BOE, Assistant Chief Don Ellis.
 - We will also welcome Senator John Kissel to read to the children this Thursday at 10:00. The preschool classrooms will also be going on a field trip in March to Amelia Park Museum.
 - The Toddler teachers had their Mchat training on Monday March 3rd, this is part of the Bridging the gap initiative.
 - There have been no home visits or updates to the Pyramid Model. The Toddler classroom is finishing their COS training.
 - Lisa Carriere has started a "Little Story Explorers" Program piloting in the older toddler classroom at ECDC. Each week, they will visit the FRC at Stowe and have some play time and then have a story time with Miss Lisa- she will also send home a book for their families to read together each week and an activity they can do at home around the book. Parent feedback has been very positive, and we hope to offer it to other classrooms.

Equity- Hannah Song – KITE

- Hannah spoke about intersectionality and how it affects the work she's been doing on Heritage Fair.
 - She read excerpts from the book, "So You Want to Talk About Race" by Ijeoma Oluo.

Presentation- Danielle Hunter – Doctoral Student, National University

- Danielle is trying to recruit ECE educators for her doctoral study. She shared the guidelines for the study, attached.

KITE Updates

- **Leadership Workgroup Updates**
 - KITE submitted the Town of Enfield Department of Social Services grant application for FY 25-26. We also received our check for \$10,000 from the CT Project for the RAPID Grant.
 - FRC State Grant:
 - As Brianna shared in an email earlier this month, the Family Resource Center Grant in the Governor's Proposed Budget was eliminated as its own line item and merged into a competitive pool of funding with other grants. Over 30 Enfield families and community partners submitted testimony in opposition to this plan to the legislature before the public hearing on the Education budget. Our state representatives and Senator Kissel are aware of this and are also looking into it further. State budget negotiations are still taking place, and we are hopeful that this funding will get restored to its own line item with additional funding. An article in the CT Examiner highlighted this issue and featured quotes from some Enfield families. Thank you all for your support and advocacy and we will keep you informed as the budget process continues.
- **Budget**
 - KITE expenditures for FY2025 –January Expenditures \$10,020.27. You can e-mail Brianna with any questions.
- **Communications**
 - In the month of February KITE published 12 posts.
 - 10 posts KITE specific (Science Night, Heritage Fair, 100 days). 2 partner/community content shares (OEC Parent Event on Childcare, Drum Circle) 2,400 total reaches | Up 71.4% | 8,400 total views | Up 18% | 205 total interactions (Up 27.3%) | #1 post 100 Days 1,769 reached 32 interactions. #2 post Kindergarten Registration 1,294 reached 41 interactions.

Area Focus Teams:

- **Result #1: Enfield's Children are Safe, Happy, and Healthy**
 - **Infant/Child Mental Health**
 - The ETC Mental Health and Wellness Coalition LWG met on Friday, February 28th. They are working to create a campaign focused on addressing loneliness and have put together a working group of community partners. This group met for the first time Tuesday, March 4th.
 - The KITE Mental Health Sub-committee will be meeting on Monday, March 24th from 4-5pm via Zoom.
 - Integrated Pediatric Pilot: Department of Social Services held a site visit at Dr. Villa's office in January and wanted to share the feedback as it pertains to collaborative members.
 - The recent site visit by the Connecticut Department of Social Services went exceptionally well, and we appreciate the collaboration that made this possible.
 - Erin and Lynn did a wonderful job demonstrating the seamless integration of services between the town and Dr. Villa's office, highlighting developmental promotion, screening and surveillance, and the vital connections to FRC parenting supports such as Circle of Security and playgroups. The integration and access to town-based supports such as food pantries, childcare, and employment services was particularly recognized as a strength.
 - The Deputy Director of Medicaid and Division Health Services described the Pilot as "exemplary," and we know that this success is a direct result of the strong partnership we share with the town.
 - Thank you for your commitment to serving families and for partnering with us to demonstrate what supportive connected communities can look like for families with young children.
 - This Pilot continues through December of this year and the goals of the pilot have been met with 204 children enrolled- Erin will continue to be outposted there on Mondays and following up with families as needed.
 - **Sparkler**
 - There are 971 children registered in Sparkler. In the last month, a total of 480 Plays have been logged. 51% of completed ASQs were on track, and 68% for the ASQ-SE. There was a total of 13 recommendations for referrals, the highest area of needs being in gross motor and problem solving.
- **Result #2: Enfield's children live in thriving families with strong ties to neighbors and the community.**
 - **KITE/EPS Family Engagement Partnership**
 - Enfield Gets Ready for Kindergarten Night is April 3rd 6-7pm at JFK Middle School. Flyers are starting to be circulated, and registration packets collated for centers and home providers. Enfield Unplugged will be coming up in May.
 - **Parent Leadership Academy**
 - Karen shared that the class is going well. This week's class is Understanding the System. Representatives from the Town Council and Board of Education are coming to speak.
 - **Parent Ambassadors**
 - Stephanie shared about the parent panel meeting, where she shared her personal experiences on the importance of self-care as a mother.
 - **Heritage Fair**
 - Hannah sent a set of questions to table exhibitors and performers. Food trucks have been contacted by Bethany Ouellette. The next planning meetings are March 11th and 25th at JFK at 5:30. Students have been signing up to volunteer from EHS and JFK. A preliminary schedule for performers has been made. Heritage Fair will be on Saturday March 29th from 11:00 am to 2:30 pm. If you would like to volunteer to help, please let Hannah know.

- **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 3-to-3 Committee will be meeting next week to plan an evening for providers/centers.
 - Our "Play & Science" event is March 26th at 5:30pm in the EHS cafeteria for PK-1 families.
 - **First Readers**
 - Trivia Night was a lot of fun. First Readers had their first ceremony of the year March 4th at EHS. It was a great success with a bunch of exuberant readers being celebrated. Our "celebrity guests" were Superintendent of Schools Steven Moccio, Deputy Superintendent Andrew Longey and Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Michelle Middleton. The next meeting will be in April.
 - **Book Buddies**
 - No new updates.
 - **Rocking Chair Readers**
 - Readers and teachers have been contacted about interest for this school year. We had some new readers that have started in the classrooms, and we are still waiting on a couple of responses. If you know anyone that is interested, please reach out to Melanie.
 - **2GEN (Tabled)**
 - **Play Lab (Tabled)**

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 6:37 pm.