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March 2019

SECC Early Childhood Community of Practice E-Newsletter

Greetings! Thank you for participating in the Community of Practice (CoP).

If you have forgotten your password for the website, please email Kathleen Theodore to request that the password be resent to you.

State Highlights

North Carolina

North Carolina recently released its Pathways to Grade-Level Reading Action Framework. This document is an initiative of the North Carolina Early Childhood Foundation and was developed through the collaboration of hundreds of stakeholders throughout the state in partnership with NC Child, the North Carolina Partnership for Children (Smart Start) and BEST NC. The action framework outlines four key expectations for moving the state forward toward its goal of all children reading on or above grade level by the end of third grade and includes strategies and actions that will help North Carolina begin to achieve those expectations.

Professional Development

The National Center on Early Childhood Development Teaching and Learning, as well as other early childhood organizations and agencies, frequently presents webinars on topics of interest to members of the early childhood community. The Upcoming Events page on Head Start's Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center website provides a list of upcoming webinars and training opportunities. Currently, the list includes professional development opportunities through September 2019.

Resource Spotlight

The School Readiness Reporting Guide: Guidelines and Tools for Creating and Using School Readiness Reports, developed by the Early Childhood Integrated Data Systems School Readiness Reporting Workgroup, examines the types of data normally found in school readiness reports, recommends other school- and community-level data for consideration in such reports, and provides four "use cases" that describe how to use these data to better meet the needs of incoming kindergarteners. Members of the workgroup that contributed to the development of this guide include state education agency staff from the states of Mississippi and Georgia.

Research Spotlight

A recent Preschool Policy Update from the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) identifies positive impacts that high-quality early childhood education and development (ECED) programs have on children's mental and physical health. The authors of Early Childhood Education: Three Pathways to Better Health provide evidence that ECED programs have direct effects that improve physical and mental health (e.g., reduced obesity, increased dental care); indirect effects through the impact the programs have on parents (e.g., increased health knowledge, reduced stress); and effects on childhood development (e.g., gains in cognition and social emotional skills). The brief also includes research-based policy recommendations that support the connections between ECED programs and better health.

For other early childhood news and information, please visit the CoP website. We appreciate your continued collaboration.

The ECCoP Team

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