

April 23, 2020 SRAC Zoom Meeting

Thursday, April 18, 2019 8:49 PM

Participants: Kim Fiebert, Corrie Mervyn, Lucy McClintic, Elise Harper, Meghan Chumbley, Nicole Greiter, Wendy Boyce, Mari Garza, Gloria Sabourin, Jamie Yeomans, Michelle Nicholson, Laurie Linscott, Adrienne Watkins

Kindergarten Transition Ideas:

SRAC discussed recommendations for transitioning kids from Pre-K to Kindergarten due to school closure. Many programs offered ideas that they were using. Spartan CDC makes transition books with pictures of items from their school with similar items that will also be at new school. Children attend many school districts, so it works better for Spartan CDC to make a more general book. Gloria offered to share their digital book. Kidtime uses videos for parents to show them what a typical day would look like in Kindergarten. Meghan offered to contact Kidtime to get a sample video.

Headstart completed transition planning with parents in Feb. 2020. They did not complete parent-teacher conferences, no transition paperwork has been completed for Kindergarten teachers. Headstart reported 100 families out of 1700 were not able to be contacted since March closure. Headstart has applied for a grant to do ½ day program for 6 weeks in July and August. There would be 700 spots with blended Headstart and GSRP. Some Kindergarten transitioning could be done during this time.

Programs discussed how they were doing distance education. Little Lambs is sending weekly emails to families with activities, as well as Facebook posts. East Lansing GSRP is sending out weekly YouTube videos with activities or mailing packets. Headstart is doing zoom stories and sharing activities for home. Spartan CDC and MSU Lab school are using High Scope COR 360 which sends out weekly activities to families. Many teachers are facilitating zoom meetings with students to read books, sing, and share activities. It was suggested that future Kindergarten teachers be invited into future zoom meetings to interact with students and talk about Kindergarten transition.

Mari shared that CADL has cancelled their face-to-face programs for the summer. However, the Summer Reading Challenge will occur and will begin on May 22, 2020. Information on summer reading programs could also be included in Kindergarten transition plans with a link shared to the reading log.

Wendy shared that Ingham ISD is negotiating a county wide contract with Ready Rosie that will begin the end of June. Parents with children birth to 8 can join and receive weekly notifications that would include 2-4 videos of parents and children doing activities. Parents will also be able to access the website and view 1000 other videos of their interest.

Ingham ISD can post Kindergarten transition ideas into google drive for districts to review. The Early Learning Calendar is also available digitally on inghamgreatstart.org and can be shared with families to assist with Kindergarten transition. It was also suggested that teachers from PreK and Kindergarten try to connect before the start of the new school year.

Supporting Essential Instructional Practices in Early Literacy: Prekindergarten

Due to center closures, the SRAC is encouraging teachers to complete Early Literacy modules at their own pace. The Essential Instructional Practices is available on Michigan virtual for free and credit is available on Mi Registry. Michelle will contact Karen to see if the resource center has any flyers that could be sent out to advertise these trainings.

Realign Kindergarten Readiness Packet with MKEO:

Corrie will organize a small group to look at aligning the Kindergarten Readiness Packet with MKEO this summer. This agenda item will be moved to the August 6 meeting.

Due to the March school closure, discussion occurred about how school districts could use the MKEO differently in the fall. Data from preschool programs will be limited due to midyear closure and no end of the year data. Suggestions were made to have the 60-month ASQ completed by programs (face to face or virtually) to provide some data for placement.

Kindergarten Roundup:

It is unknown if districts will be able to have a traditional Kindergarten Roundup this year. Lansing completed their Kindergarten Roundup on March 5 and East Lansing had a parent night. It was suggested that districts reflect on the goal of the Kindergarten Roundup and look at alternative ways to achieve (phone call, virtual meeting). The SRAC workgroup recommended that districts consider either a soft start or a community start in the fall. Districts may also want to look into doing a home visit before school starts.

2020-21 Meeting Schedule: The next meeting will be on August 6 from 4:00 – 6:00. Location TBD.