

Delaware Early Childhood Council

2008 Report to the Governor, Legislature, and Interagency Resource Management Committee

Our Vision

Delaware's Most Valuable Resource...

Young children – eager to learn, ready to succeed

By the year 2015, Delaware will have:

- **Ready children:** children who are physically and emotionally healthy with access to high quality early learning experiences
- **Ready families:** families with the knowledge and resources needed to successfully support their child's learning
- **Ready early care and education programs:** programs that safeguard and ensure the growth, development, and learning of children; staffed by teachers who are well prepared, well compensated, and well supported
- **Ready communities:** communities that embrace their role in supporting young children and their families
- **Ready schools:** schools that value and build upon the early learning experiences of children

Our Mission

The mission of the Delaware Early Childhood Council is:

To promote the highest quality comprehensive early learning system for Delaware's young children and their families by providing leadership and advocacy to guide the system's development

Dear Friends of Delaware Children:

The Delaware Early Childhood Council is pleased to present this report on the progress that has been made in 2008 toward reaching the goals outlined in *Early Success: Delaware's Plan for Early Childhood*. The wide range of organizations that have contributed to this report is once again an affirmation of a statewide commitment to Delaware's youngest citizens.

It is gratifying to note how the community's knowledge and understand of the importance of the early years has grown since the Council inception in 2002. With leadership from the Kid's Caucus and advocacy by the Early Learning Coalition, issues important to building a comprehensive system for children birth to age five are consistently before the Legislature; a recent study by the University of Delaware found that the majority of Delaware residents support early childhood initiatives; and Kid's Count first report dedicated specifically to *Indicators of Early Success* can be found at the end of this document.

An indicator of the progress that has been made nationally is the 2008 Head Start Reauthorization Bill that requires all state to form early childhood councils. Delaware was invited to attend a National Governor's Association meeting devoted to exploring the work of State Councils. Janet Carter and I attended and were proud to represent a state that has been engaged in this work for so long. But a great deal still needs to be done to create and sustain all of the programs and policies required by a comprehensive, world-class early childhood system.

In the year ahead the Council looks forward to working with Governor Markell, Lieutenant Governor Denn, the Cabinet Secretaries, the Legislature, Foundations, the Business Community, Social Service Agencies, and the citizens of Delaware. Together we will build on our past accomplishments and further explore how Delaware can have a complete, sustainable, and well funded early childhood system so that all of Delaware's children can succeed in school and through out their lives.

A Chair of Delaware Early Childhood Council I wish to thank Janet Carter and Verna Thompson of the Office of Early Childhood at the Department of Education for their support of this work and all of the individuals and organizations represented in the 2008 report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Ann D. Wick, Chair

Delaware Early Childhood Council

Recommendations for 2009

Implement the 2008 Call to Action on Early Childhood priorities:

1. **Implement new governance structures and state policies to support Early Success' vision and goals.**
 - **Institute a Children's Cabinet Council in the Governor's Office** to ensure a committed, coordinated, comprehensive approach to early childhood services. Members should include leadership from state agencies, community agencies, and higher education institutions providing services for young children and their families.
 - **Create a Governor's Policy Advisor** on early childhood. The policy advisor will provide the guidance and focus on the implementation of *Early Success*.
 - **Update *Early Success: Delaware's Early Childhood Plan*** – The current version of the plan was adopted in October 2006. It is time to begin the updating process to ensure that the plan remain viable.
 - **Map and align early childhood policies and investments to assure they support the goals outlined in *Early Success*** - To support this effort the Council is creating a Task Force on Purchase of Care. The purpose of the task force is to review the current policies and practices of Purchase of Care in order to examine issues of accessibility and quality. The Council continues to support legislation to ensure the child care reimbursement rates are increased to reflect the bi-annual market rate study.
2. **Immediately expand professional development to give Delaware's early childhood work force the knowledge and skills needed to produce positive outcomes for children.**
 - **Fund sixty new programs in Delaware Stars** for Early Success, the quality rating and improvement program. Delaware Stars provides funding to provide professional development. The Council's Delaware Stars Committee will continue to work closely with the Delaware Stars Management Team on the expansion of the program and its move to the Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood.
 - **Continue implementation of the new early childhood professional development model** through the Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood and improved infrastructure at the Department of Education. The Council's Professional Development Committee will begin development of a system to coordinate all early childhood technical assistance programs in collaboration with the Department of Education and the Institute.
 - **Initiate a Workforce Development Strategy for Early Childhood.** Children need well-qualified, skilled teachers. Professional development alone will not

produce the kind of teachers children need. Compensation, recruitment, retention, scholarships and professional development are required to build the early childhood workforce. The Council will establish a work group to make recommendations on workforce development building on the success of the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Program.

3. Implement plans to ensure that all children begin kindergarten physically and emotionally healthy.

- **Continue expansion of efforts to ensure that all children have comprehensive screening** consistent with the policies of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) occurring at 9, 18, and 30 months of age. The Council will continue to work on this initiative with the Delaware AAP and the staff of the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant, located in the Division of Public Health.
- **Support the development of a comprehensive approach to emotional wellness** for young children and their families. The Council's Emotional Wellness Committee includes all the partners to ensure a comprehensive model for Delaware.

Recommendations on additional Early Success strategies:

Ready Families

- **Codify the Family Support Coordinating Council** to ensure its sustainability.
- **Map the current network of home visiting programs** in the state with the Family Support Coordinating Council to conduct a gap analysis.

Ready Programs

- **Schedule a follow-up study to the 2002 Child Care Base Line Quality Study.** The study is an important tool in guiding the Council's child care initiatives. The follow-up will measure progress and identify gaps to guide the early childhood agenda for the Early Childhood Council and the State agencies.
- **Support and monitor the Office of Child Care Licensing to ensure child care rules are revised and implemented every five years.** Center rules are to be revised by 2012. Family and large family child care home rules are to be revised by 2014.

Ready Communities

- **Revise current structure of the Early Childhood Council;** the Council provides the forum for the State's early childhood initiatives for both the public and private sectors. The revised model will allow the Council to meet with criteria in the 2008 Head Start Reauthorization Legislation and create a committee network to support the broad mandate of *Early Success*.

- **Support legislative initiatives of the Kids Caucus** including those of the Caucus' Task Force on Children in Poverty and efforts to tie Purchase of Care reimbursements to quality as defined by Delaware Stars.
- **Draft a Council position paper on universal preschool.** Prepare a formal statement of the Council's position.

Ready Schools

- **Request the Department of Education form a committee to develop Ready Schools strategies**, the task should include:
 - Exploring existing partnerships between school districts, individual schools, and early childhood programs, particularly in their Connections to Learning efforts.
 - Exploring opportunities for new partnerships between schools, child care, Head Start, ECAP, and 21st Century Programs. Partners in Excellence and Positive Behavior Support offer a natural opportunity for partnering. Ensure family child care is included as a partner.

Delaware Early Childhood Council Executive Summary of the 2008 Report

I. Ready Children

Emotional Wellness Committee of the Early Childhood Council

The Committee began its work in August, 2008. The Committee is multi-agency and multi-disciplinary. The Committee's mission is to development a systemic framework to support the emotional well-being of young children and their families.

The Committee meets monthly focused on specific tasks in their work plan and reports regularly to the Council. These tasks include mapping, identifying gaps in resources and services, establishing standards for practice and identifying priority areas needed for the systematic promotion of emotional wellness in the state.

United Way of Delaware Success By 6™

Success By 6™:

- Partnered with the Department of Education to give leadership to Emotional Wellness Committee
- Continued its commitment to improve the quality of early care and education through financial support of Delaware Stars and served as a member of the public/private management team with specific responsibilities related to leading the coordination of private resource development, serving as fiscal agent for private funds, and providing leadership on building public will
- Partnered with Nemours Health & Prevention Services to conduct a parenting needs assessment
- Partnered with Family Support Coordinating Council for that Council to begin functioning as the advisory body for Success By 6™'s work related to supporting families

Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant

Early Childhood Comprehensive System Grant:

- Focuses on developing, implementing and sustaining comprehensive early childhood programs through collaborative partnerships and systems building initiatives
- Funded the KIDS COUNT in Delaware Indicators for Early Success issue brief
- Provided funding to host a series of educational trainings on topics promoting the importance of the medical home, family-centered primary care and newborn hearing screenings

Nemours Health and Prevention Services

Nemours Health and Prevention Services:

- Collaboration with the Delaware Child and Adult Care Food program to set higher nutrition standards for foods qualifying for reimbursement.
- Implementation of a Child Care Learning Collaborative to test out a new approach to training, focused on helping centers make policy and practice changes to promote healthy eating and physical activity.

- Implementation support for a statewide quality rating system, Delaware Stars for Early Success.
- Pilot study for improved screening for developmental delays in primary care pediatrics: The Assuring Better Child Health & Development (ABCD) project.

II. Ready Families

Family Support Coordinating Council

Family Support Coordinating Council:

- Supported the submission of a federal grant *Supporting Evidence-Based Home Visitation Programs to Prevent Child Abuse*
- Adopted of a model that describes the future path of the council; the goal of this model is to establish the resources and supports needed to nurture *strong families* in Delaware
- Sponsor of the Parent Practitioner Partnership Summit held on May 14, 2008 which addressed partnerships between parents and practitioners in healthcare, education and human services to improve child outcomes

III. Ready Early Care and Education Programs

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood®

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood®:

- Provided scholarships to 136 individuals
- Works in conjunction with other initiatives i.e. Delaware Stars to increase the quality of early childhood programs through increased education for early childhood professionals

Delaware First: Early Childhood Professional Development System

Delaware First:

- Developed of a Framework for Professional Development that outlines the expectations and intensity of training opportunities for the early childhood
- Awarded a grant to the University of Delaware for the creation of the Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood
- Provided the formal review and certification of early childhood staff qualifications

Delaware Stars for *Early Success*

Delaware Stars for *Early Success*:

- Completed the second year of “testing” the Delaware Stars system
- Enrolled in 69 child care programs including all three counties; small and large centers; family child care and large family child care homes; before and after school programs; programs that serve infants and toddlers, children with special needs, and children whose primary language is other than English; Head Start and ECAP programs; and NAEYC accredited programs
- 46 of the programs enrolled are serving children and families of low-income.
- Delaware Stars programs are serving more than 5,000 children and their families

Relative Care Training Program

Relative Care Training Program:

- 600 Relative Caregivers have received training information
- 178 Relative Caregivers have attended training
- 42 Relative Caregivers have completed all 45 hours

Partners in Excellence Project

Partners in Excellence Project:

- Provided training and technical assistance in three sites that has been designed based on a framework of program wide change consistent with the PBS system used in schools
- Supported a training of trainers on the Parent Modules
- Developed and is piloting an approach that provides continuity to the systems that care for and educate young children in Delaware

IV. Ready Communities

Social Venture Partners Delaware

Social Venture Partners Delaware:

- Provided more than \$2.5 million toward the improvement of early childhood education in the state of Delaware since its inception
- Partnered with A.I. duPont Hospital for Children; this five-year partnership places psychology residents in early care centers to provide year round behavioral health management for at-risk children and families
- Invested in a curriculum development specialist to train teachers and administrators in inner-city child care centers to properly prepare their children for kindergarten

Coalition for Early Learning

Coalition for Early Learning:

- Members testified at the Department of Health and Social Services budget and Joint Finance Committee hearings
- Sponsored the annual Early Childhood Advocacy Day
- Worked with the Kids Caucus to codify Delaware Stars for *Early Success* into law
- Worked with Kids Caucus to gain support for Purchase of Care reimbursement rate increases, rates indexed to bi-annual market rate study and rates tiered according to star ratings

Delaware Children's Campaign

The Delaware Children's Campaign (DCC) is a nonpartisan nonprofit organization that offers a different approach to child advocacy. What makes DCC different from other efforts is its use of public opinion data to identify issues relating to children that are of concern to Delawareans. Their polling along with the input of the platform committee helped determine the DCC's agenda: 1) Reducing the infant mortality/morbidity rate; 2) Increasing assistance for youth aging-out of foster care; and 3) Ensuring that quality early education is available to all children. DCC is dedicated to improving access to quality early care and education by building public awareness and grassroots support.

Campaign staff are working to educate and engage citizens, media and policy makers regarding the societal cost savings of quality/consistent delivery of early education programming.

Wilmington Early Care and Education Council

The Wilmington Early Care and Education Council (WECEC) met ten times in 2008. Member engagement was a goal achieved this year, with additional attendance of community volunteers, termed "Friends of the Council". Many of the "Friends" represent early care and education programs throughout the City of Wilmington; others represent community based organizations. These individuals assisted with planning and executing events. In addition, WECEC utilized the new Parks and Recreation building for meetings and events. WECEC members are working with the City webmaster to move the website to the City site.

Sussex Early Childhood Council

The Sussex Early Childhood Council (SECC) has spent time this year developing its mission and purpose. The mission of SECC is to foster collaboration among families, communities, providers, and schools for children's early success in Sussex County. Members include child care providers, human service agency representatives, parents, home visitors, school district representatives, and others interested in young children and families in Sussex County.

Delaware AfterSchool Alliance

The Delaware AfterSchool Alliance (DEASA) is a public-private partnership that endorses the goal of all school age children being academically, socially, culturally and physically healthy. Their work continues on building bridges that link schools, communities, and families through policy development and partnership engagement with other agencies. The Alliance has involved itself in many key efforts over the last year that address the common moral, social and educational concerns of Delaware's citizenry, not the least of which were the Governor's Dropout Prevention Summit and the Governor's Expanded Learning Opportunities Summit.

The Early Childhood Council has developed partnerships with many organizations and agencies to begin implementation of Early Success. Each has committed to being part of building a high quality early childhood system for Delaware's children. In the spirit of these partnerships the Council asked each of its partners to contribute to this annual report. The partners' work often encompasses a number of Early Success goals and objectives.

I. Ready Children

Physically and Emotionally Healthy Children Eager to Learn

By the year 2015, all of Delaware's young children will have available the supports they require to ensure that they are physically, socially and emotionally healthy. Early learning opportunities will be available to every child at home and in programs that are developmentally appropriate and individualized. It is important to ensure that every child's development is progressing. Child assessment for early identification of developmental challenges or disabling conditions is essential. Early intervention is critical for remediation of developmental delays and readiness for school.

Emotional Wellness Committee

Ready Children Objective I.4: "Every child will have access to social, emotional and mental health services as needed."

The Emotional Wellness Committee, a subgroup of the Delaware Early Childhood Council officially began working together in August, 2008. The members include representatives from public and private agencies and programs including the Department of Education, the Office of Child Care Licensing, the Department of Health and Social Services, Child Mental Health, Delaware Early Childhood Center, the University of Delaware, Children and Families First, Catholic Charities, United Way of Delaware,, staff from Head Start, ECAP and private early childhood programs, and families. The group's mission is to support the emotional well being of young children and their families in Delaware through a System of Care based on the *Emotional Wellness Framework (2003)*. When it is completed, this system will offer a comprehensive spectrum of services which are organized into a coordinated network across funding and administrative jurisdictions to meet the needs of young children and their families. The emotional wellness system will be aligned with *Early Success* and involve families, public, and private partnerships in a multi-agency and multi-disciplinary approach to build children's social emotional competencies.

The Emotional Wellness Committee monthly meetings are currently focused on completing specific tasks to build a system of care in Delaware for children birth to five and their families. The committee is working on mapping, identifying gaps in resources and services, establishing standards for practice and identifying priority areas needed for the systematic promotion of emotional wellness in the state.

Contributed by Verna Thompson, Delaware Department of Education and Janet Umble, United Way of Delaware Department

United Way of Delaware Success By 6™

The broad mission of United Way of Delaware is to maximize the community's resources to improve the quality of life for all Delawareans by focusing on three key areas: education, income, and health. Success By 6™ is working to ensure that every child in Delaware enters school ready to succeed, a critical foundation for success in school and life. Toward that end, Success By 6™ is committed to being a collaborative partner in the building of an early childhood system that will engage and support the efforts of all early childhood stakeholders.

2008 EFFORTS:

Ready Children Objective I.4 "Every child will have access to social, emotional, and mental health services as needed."

Success By 6™ is partnering with the Department of Education to give leadership to the Emotional Wellness Committee of the Delaware Early Childhood Council. The work of this committee is focused on the development of a comprehensive system that will support the emotional wellness of young children.

Ready Early Care and Education Programs Objective III.1: "A system of tiered quality for child care centers, family and large family child care homes, and school age programs will be implemented. "

In 2008 Success By 6™ continued its commitment to improve the quality of early care and education through its financial support of Delaware Stars, Delaware's quality rating and improvement system. Additionally, United Way's work on Delaware Stars includes serving as a member of the public/private management team with specific responsibilities related to leading the coordination of private resource development, serving as fiscal agent for private funds, and providing leadership on building public will in support of greater public and private investment in early childhood care and education.

Ready Families Objective II.1: "Every family will have access to a comprehensive array of parenting and child development information that will enhance their parental capacity and increase the positive relationships between children and parents."

Success By 6™ partnered with Nemours Health & Prevention Services to conduct a parenting needs assessment. Results from the assessment were available in late 2008 and will inform the development of strategies to support families in the nurturing of the school readiness of their young children.

Ready Families Objective II.6: "The current Family Support Coordinating Council will formalize and expand its function to include identifying and supporting programs using evidence based practice and evaluation. The Family Support Coordinating Council and the Early Care and Education Council will establish a collaborative relationship sharing and coordinating their work. Means to support the Family Support Coordinating Council will be identified."

In 2008, the Family Support Coordinating Council began functioning as the advisory body for Success By 6™'s work related to supporting families.

Ready Communities Objective IV.1: “Identify and develop clear, specific, concise and consistent messages to be used in advertising campaigns.”

The collaborative work of creating public will in support of early childhood issues was advanced in 2008 as key players, including Success By 6™, created an Early Learning Coalition for the purpose of articulating shared advocacy and public will goals and implementing coordinated strategies for reaching those goals.

Contributed by Janet Umble, Senior Associate

Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant

Delaware Health and Social Services

Division of Public Health’s Family Health and Systems Management Section

Bureau of Maternal and Child Health

The mission of Family Health and Systems Management (FHSM) is to improve the health of families and provide leadership to communities in the development of health systems. Delaware’s Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems program (ECCS) focuses on developing, implementing and sustaining comprehensive early childhood programs through collaborative partnerships and systems building initiatives. The ECCS program translates evidence into practice to improve early childhood comprehensive systems of care to improve the health of both families and children, including those with special health care needs. ECCS provides for Delaware children via five critical components: access to health insurance and medical homes, mental health and social-emotional development, early care and education/child care services, parent education and family support.

Ready Children Objective I.1: “Every child will have a medical home familiar with his or her unique developmental path, offering comprehensive physical and child development services, including special health care needs and assessment, intervention, and referral for development, behavioral, social and emotional problems.”

Delaware’s Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grants (ECCS) focuses on developing, implementing and sustaining comprehensive early childhood programs through collaborative partnerships and systems building initiatives. The overall purpose of this project is to better coordinate comprehensive services the State of Delaware provides for its young children via five core ECCS components: access to health care and medical homes, mental health and social-emotional development, early care and education services, parent education and family support. The various implementation strategies of *Early Success: Delaware’s Plan for Early Childhood* have guided the work of ECCS to ensure that all Delaware’s children will be healthy and ready to learn.

In 2008, ECCS funded the “KIDS COUNT in Delaware’s” *Indicators for Early Success* issue brief. The issue brief uses existing data to supplement newly identified early childhood data sets in order to provide additional public awareness of early childhood initiatives. Moreover, the brief marked the commencement of a statewide collaborative effort to identify accessible, reliable indicators that can track progress towards desired results in building early childhood systems and coordinating policy and services in Delaware.

Collaborating with members of the Council and the Delaware Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, ECCS provided funding to host a series of educational

trainings on topics promoting the importance of the medical home, family-centered primary care and newborn hearing screenings. In 2008, ECCS also provided funding and administrative support for the Assuring Better Child Health and Development (ABCD) pilot project for developmental screening in pediatric practices. The ABCD technical assistance grant administered by the National Academy of State Health Policy was awarded to Delaware Medicaid and Medical Assistance. The success of this project is the paradigm for many other statewide collaborative projects focused on expanding the use of validated tools for developmental screenings in both pediatric and family practice sites. Other sponsored statewide projects included the Delaware Early Childhood Center's Parent Practitioner Partnership Summit and the Delaware Stars for Early Success.

A competing continuation new ECCS grant cycle is pending for 2009. The program will continue striving to implement the strategies in Early Success and will remain focused on the five critical components. The project will begin to augment the multi-agency efforts at the State level for building integrated systems of services focused on resources to support families and communities in promoting the healthy physical, social, and emotional development of *all* young children, including those with special health care needs. Key elements in the systems building efforts include financing, governance, family leadership development, provider/practitioner support and communication and standards. For more information visit the Division of Public Health's Early Childhood Program's website at <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/chca/dphearlychildhome.html>.

Contributed by Helen Arthur, Division of Public Health

Nemours Health and Prevention Services

Nemours Health & Prevention Services (NHPS), an operating division of Nemours, is dedicated to working with others to help children lead healthier lives.

Ready Children Objective I.1: "Every child will have a medical home familiar with his or her unique developmental path, offering comprehensive physical and child development services, including special health care needs and assessment, intervention, and referral for development, behavioral, social and emotional problems."

NHPS staff served on a statewide collaborative team to promote the use of standardized developmental screening tools based on the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations during pediatric well child visits. The success of the pilot project has resulted in the Nemours Pediatric Practices integrating a standardized developmental screening tool into their electronic medical records statewide. The new technology will be piloted initially in four practices in the coming year.

II. Ready Families

Families with the Knowledge and Resources They Need to Successfully Support their Children's Learning and Well-Being

By the year 2015, families of young children in Delaware will have the support and education needed to support their children's healthy growth, development, learning and

readiness for school. Families are significant partners in creating a culturally competent comprehensive and integrated early learning system. Families are the primary influence on their children. All other components of the early learning system must support the families of young children to be successful.

Family Support Coordinating Council

The Family Support Coordinating Council (FSCC) is a multi-disciplinary, collaborative, public-private council that includes family members and professionals who are committed to assuring that quality family education and support programs, including home visiting, respite care, community based family resource centers and early care and education are available statewide. The group provides leadership in advocating for system change that assures that services are available and adequately resourced and that they are family centered and culturally competent.

Ready Families Objective II.2: “Every family will have access to home visiting services upon the arrival of their first child.”

The FSCC has supported the submission of a federal grant *Supporting Evidence-Based Home Visitation Programs to Prevent Child Abuse*. Members of the FSCC will serve on the Advisory Board that will help guide project implementation.

Ready Families Objective II.6: “The current Family Support Coordinating Council will formalize and expand its function to include identifying and supporting programs using evidence based practice and evaluation.”

During the past year intensive planning efforts have resulted in the adoption of a model that describes the future path of the council. The goal of this model is to establish the resources and supports needed to nurture *strong families* in Delaware. In order to accomplish this goal the council recognizes the need to create a common vision, identify resources needed, seek out best practice models and encourage the shifting of resources to support these models, disseminating information and empowering others to make changes within themselves, their families and their communities.

Ready Families Objective II.7: “The FSCC will coordinate and provide technical assistance to support the engagement of families and leadership development opportunities for families.”

The FSCC was a major sponsor of the Parent Practitioner Partnership Summit held on May 14, 2008 which addressed partnerships between parents and practitioners in healthcare, education and human services to improve child outcomes.

The FSCC arranged a two-day training conducted by trainers representing the Circle of Parents. The training allowed the council to explore the benefits of parent leadership and to create an action plan to assure the meaningful involvement of family members on the FSCC.

Contributed by: Karen K. DeRasmo, Prevent Child Abuse Delaware, Council Facilitator

III. Ready Early Care and Education Programs

Quality Programs, Professional Development and Program Licensure

By the year 2015, all of Delaware's families will have access to early care and education programs that will offer families a safe learning environment that will ensure positive outcomes for children. Early care and education programs will be staffed by professionals educated and skilled in supporting the growth, development and learning of young children. Programs will be regulated to ensure basic safeguards for children, both physical and developmental.

The original Early Success focused solely on early care and education. Therefore the programs relating to early care and education are more fully developed and reflect work begun in 2000.

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood®

Ready Early Care and Education Programs III.5: "Offer a range of scholarship opportunities to allow early care and education professionals to participate in higher education."

T.E.A.C.H. (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps) Early Childhood® addresses three key workforce issues in Delaware (and nationally): low education, low compensation and high turnover rates. T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® provides scholarships to early childhood professionals who want to work towards a CDA (Child Development Associate Credential), Early Childhood AA degree or Early Childhood Director's Credential. It is an integral part of our Professional Development system as it is designed to assist the early childhood workforce to continue their education. It also supports the Early Childhood Apprenticeship Program as the second year of apprenticeship.

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® has been the single most important initiative to increase the education of the early childhood workforce in Delaware. In 2007-2008 T.E.A.C.H provided scholarships to 136 individuals. Many of these individuals have used the T.E.A.C.H. program to obtain the college credits needed to meet the staff qualifications per the revised licensing regulations (January 2007).

The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Program works in conjunction with other initiatives i.e. Delaware Stars to increase the quality of early childhood programs through increased education for early childhood professionals.

Contributed by: Debbie Taylor, T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Manager

Delaware First: Early Childhood Professional Development System

Ready Early Care and Education Programs III.6, III.9 and III.10: "6) Create a system of credentials for recognition of specialized knowledge and experience required for specific early learning roles; 9) implement multiple delivery methods that allow the working adult to take advantage of professional development opportunities. Address the barrier to professional development stemming from low literacy level and English language learners; 10) implement and maintain a network of resources and professional development."

A New Professional Development Framework for Early Childhood

The Department of Education has been working on the development of a Framework for Professional Development that outlines the expectations and intensity of training opportunities for the early childhood field. The Framework will help practitioners in making informed choices for their professional development experiences. The State recommended training levels of the Framework will be implemented by the new Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood at the University of Delaware. The Institute will develop or coordinate in collaboration with other education organizations a variety of State recommended professional development opportunities to meet the identified needs of all sectors of the early childhood field. The Institute will provide quality assurance to the consumer by closely monitoring the delivery and in making sure that the content of training is research based and aligned with state standards for the field.

Levels	Purpose	Hours	DOE Tracking	Trainer Qualifications	Content Alignment	Quality Assurance for Development	Quality Assurance for Delivery	Rigor	Credit Available
Level 1: Community-Based Training	1. Annual hours	Not required	No	Not required Consumer education needed	Not required Consumer education needed	Not required Consumer education needed	Not required Consumer education needed	Not required Consumer education needed	No
Level 2: Quality Assured Training	1. Annual hours 2. High quality content and delivery	Not less than 1 hour	Yes – automatic	1. Certified Trainer 2. Specialty Discipline Trainer	1. Early Learning Foundations 2. EC Competencies 3. SA Competencies	DOE Approval; partnership with other organizations; placed on calendar by DOE	Developing or delivering organization assumes responsibility for monitoring	Not required	No
Level 3: Quality Assured Training Series	1. Annual hours 2. Qualifications 3. High-quality content and delivery 4. Substantive content	6 or more hours; multiple sessions and dates	Yes – automatic	1. Certified Trainer 2. Specialty Discipline Trainer	1. Early Learning Foundations 2. EC Competencies 3. SA Competencies	DOE Approval; partnerships with other organizations; placed on calendar by DOE	Developing or delivering organization assumes responsibility for monitoring	Required: 1. Assignments 2. Reflective practice	Some may be credit-bearing; not required
Level 4: Professional Development Certificates	1. Annual hours 2. Qualifications 3. High-quality content and delivery; 4. Substantive content 5. Role and/or content driven content (to become endorsements)	At least 45 hours	1. With submission of transcript 2. Records maintained by delivery agency	1. Certified Trainer 2. Specialty Discipline Trainer	1. Early Learning Foundations 2. EC Competencies 3. SA Competencies	Developed by DOE or by invitation to another organization	Developing or delivering organization assumes responsibility for monitoring	Required: 1. Assessment 2. Assignments 3. Reflective practice	Potential for formalized credit mechanism
Level 5: College Courses	1. Annual hours 2. Qualifications	Determined by IHEs (Institutions of Higher Education)	With submission of transcript	Determined by IHEs	Suggested alignment with Early Learning Foundations	Determined by IHEs	Determined by IHEs	Determined by IHEs	Yes

Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood

The Department of Education awarded a grant to the University of Delaware for the creation of the Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood in November

2008. The University will partner with The Family & Workplace Connection, a division of *Children & Families First* and collaborate with other educational organizations to develop and deliver State recommended training. The Institute will conduct annual needs assessments for professional development across all sectors of the field and implement the priorities for training as identified by the Delaware Early Childhood Council committee on professional development. Training capacity will be addressed through preparing and supporting cadres of trainers and technical assistants and collaborating with other educational organizations to make training widely available. The Institute will also provide evaluation for the efficiency and effectiveness of professional development offered to practitioners.

Early Childhood Staff Qualifications

The Department of Education provides the formal review and certification of early childhood staff qualifications. Early childhood practitioners make application for review of qualifications and Department of Education staff review the education and experience of individuals using the specifications of the Delaware rules. In 2008, over 3,000 applications were reviewed and the chart below details the qualifications of applicants. The Department is currently working on a modification which will be ready by fall 2009 of the DEEDS database for teacher certification that will include the early childhood workforce.

	EC Intern	EC Assistant Teacher	EC Teacher	EC Curr Coor without degree	EC Curr Coor	EC Administrator	SA Intern	SA Site Assistant	SA Site Coor	SA Administrator
Jan-March 2007	0	13	29	1	0	25	0	1	4	1
April-June 2007	9	24	112	11	2	101	0	13	8	11
July-Sept 2007	21	55	127	15	11	118	1	29	10	12
Oct-Dec 2007	19	40	101	12	10	85	6	30	7	15
Jan-March 2008	43	64	110	15	9	75	15	38	5	21
April-June 2008	53	60	158	18	5	77	12	27	8	10
July-Sept 2008	50	106	146	8	6	61	12	39	4	11
Oct-Dec 2008	83	152	128	7	11	47	11	50	10	25
Total by position	278	514	911	87	54	589	57	227	56	106

Contributed by Kathy Wilson, Department of Education

Delaware Stars for Early Success

Ready Early Care and Education Programs Objective III.1: “A system of tiered quality for child care centers, family and large family child care homes, and school age programs will be implemented.”

Delaware Stars' vision is that all of Delaware's children and families will have access to quality early care and education from birth through school-age. The mission is to increase the access to quality programs, with initial focus on families of low-income; to design and implement a quality rating and improvement system; to engage the legislature and policymakers to support quality improvement; and to provide consumer education about the importance of quality programs for young children. This vision and mission is directly connected to the "Ready Early Care and Education Programs" component of *Early Success: Delaware's Early Childhood Plan* and the component's focus on quality environments.

2008 has been the second year of "testing" the Delaware Stars system. During 2008, as of the end of October:

- 53 additional programs have been enrolled in Delaware Stars, bringing the total enrollment to 68. Delaware Stars has made an effort to enroll a mix of programs so as to include programs from all three counties; small and large centers; family child care and large family child care homes; before and after school programs; programs that serve infants and toddlers, children with special needs, and children whose primary language is other than English; Head Start and ECAP programs; and NAEYC accredited programs.
- 46 of the programs enrolled are serving children and families of low-income.
- Delaware Stars programs are serving more than 5,000 children and their families.
- Delaware Stars has provided approximately 500 hours of technical assistance.
- Approximately \$95,000 has been awarded to recognize and support program's quality improvement efforts.

Programs are moving up the Star Levels – meeting Delaware Stars standards and improving quality. All programs, except for NAEYC accredited programs which enter at Star Level 5, have entered Delaware Stars at Star Level 1. At the time of this report, several of the 2008 Star Level 1 programs have requested visits to verify their movement to Star Level 2.

Stars Programs and Enrollment Period	Number Enrolled	Star Level 1	Star Level 2	Star Level 3	Star Level 4	Star Level 5
Jan. 2007: Centers	12	4	5	2		1
Jan. 2007: Family Child Care	3		1	2		
Feb. 2008: Centers	20	18				2
May 2008: Centers	21	19				2
Sept. 2008: Family Child Care	12	12				

During 2008, Delaware Stars had three enrollment periods – February, May, and September. All programs, except for NAEYC accredited programs which entered at Star Level 5, have entered Delaware Stars at Star Level 1. Programs are moving up the Star Levels – meeting Delaware Stars standards and improving quality. Delaware Stars is a five-level system, requiring programs to work on increasingly higher standards at each level in the following areas: qualifications and professional development, learning

environment and curriculum, family and community partnerships, and management and administration. Of the 15 programs that entered Delaware Stars in 2007, (1 was a NAEYC accredited program), ten programs have moved up one or two Star Levels – two of those programs are now working to achieve Star Level 4. Delaware Stars expects that, at least, six of the 41 centers that entered in February or May (four were NAEYC accredited programs) will be requesting verification for moving up a Star Level – one program has requested the verification process. Several of the family child care providers who entered Delaware Stars in September will be moving up a Star Level by the beginning of 2009.

One priority in the Council's Call to Action is to expand professional development, using Delaware Stars incentives to expand that access. As of October, 2008 Delaware Stars has provided financial support to more than 150 individuals to take the training and education they need to become qualified for their positions.

Contributed by: Candace deCsipkes, Delaware Stars Manager

Nemours Health and Prevention Services

Nemours Health & Prevention Services, an operating division of Nemours, is dedicated to working with others to help children lead healthier lives.

Ready Early Care and Education Programs Objective III.1 and III.2: "A system of tiered quality for child care centers, family and large family child care homes, and school age programs will be implemented" and "Early care and education programs will have access to technology for program management, professional development, and to support early learning curriculum improvements."

During 2008, Nemours Health and Prevention Services focused on four main initiatives regarding promoting children's health in the early years. They are:

- Collaboration with the Delaware Child and Adult Care Food program to set higher nutrition standards for foods qualifying for reimbursement.
- Implementation of a Child Care Learning Collaborative to test out a new approach to training, focused on helping centers make policy and practice changes to promote healthy eating and physical activity.
- Implementation support for a statewide quality rating system, Delaware Stars for Early Success.
- Pilot study for improved screening for developmental delays in primary care pediatrics: The Assuring Better Child Health & Development (ABCD) project.

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

Over the past few years, NHPS has assisted the Delaware CACFP by providing information about best practices in nutrition. This year, after a year of testing and feedback from programs utilizing the "Best Practices in Nutrition Guide," the CACFP formally adopted several key recommendations to improve the quality of nutritious foods that CACFP will approve. Delaware now leads the nation in adoption of CACFP guidelines that promote healthy eating in early care and education programs. The Office of Child Care Licensing adopted regulations requiring all licensed early care and education programs follow the CACFP guidelines. This policy and regulation alignment ensures that more than 50,000 children in child care programs have access to healthy foods on a daily basis. Key changes to the Delaware CACFP policies include: limiting fat content of foods to no more than 35% of total calories in a food; requiring that only

low-fat (1% and non-fat) milk be served to children over the age of two; and encouraging use of whole grain and lower sugar content grain products. These recommendations were also endorsed by the United States Department of Agriculture, the federal agency that funds and provides oversight for CACFP.

Child Care Learning Collaborative

In February 2008, NHPS partnered with 28 child care centers to conduct an innovative training model, *Taking Steps to Health Success: A Learning Collaborative to Promote Healthy Eating and Physical Activity*. Leadership teams from each of the participating centers are actively engaged in promoting the following objectives:

- increasing physical activity
- increasing fruit and vegetable consumption
- compliance with the new CACFP guidelines
- increasing access to water
- decreasing screen time
- engaging families around child health promotion.

Through education, networking, powerful toolkits and action planning, these leadership teams are actively engaged in making healthy changes and sharing resources in order to evoke positive and lasting policy and practice changes within child care centers. The collaborative participants have become valued resources for each other as they worked to implement healthy changes within their centers and for the more than 3,000 children they serve.

Delaware Stars

In 2008, NHPS joined with several public and private partners to ensure the implementation of the Delaware Stars tiered quality rating and improvement system. NHPS applauds the work of Delaware's early childhood stakeholders in their effort to improve quality environment for all children in out of home care. NHPS is strongly committed to supporting advancements in quality child care, especially quality initiatives like Delaware Stars that support children's physical, emotional and social health. We all recognize that children's health provides a foundation for the outcomes across domains that we are all working toward. As part of the public-private collaboration, NHPS will work with the Delaware Stars Advisory and Management teams to support the statewide spread of this quality improvement initiative.

In 2009 we will offer priority status to Delaware Stars Centers as we select programs to participate in the second cohort of the Child Care Learning Collaborative. We are also working with the new University of Delaware Center for Excellence in Early Childhood to develop training materials to promote both healthy eating and physical activity and also promote children's social and emotional development.

Contributed by Dorothy Onn, Nemours Health and Prevention Services

Relative Care Training Program

Ready Children Objective I.4: "Early care and education programs will have access to professional development opportunities related to improvement of staff competence to prevent or ameliorate behavioral challenges in young children with the support and involvement of their families."

The Relative Care Training Program supports a special type of child care. This is child care provided by a child's relative and is paid for by Purchase of Care, Delaware's child care subsidy program. This type of child care is not regulated by the Office of Child Care Licensing. Rather these providers have a contractual relationship with the State. The following services are offered to relative caregivers:

- Each Relative Caregiver participates in 45 hours of training, using Delaware First curriculum. Topics include *Safety* (3 hours), *Health* (3 hours), *Nutrition* (3 hours), *Early Language & Literacy* (3 hours), *Child Development* (15 hours), *Understanding Children's Behavior* (12), and *CPR & First Aid* (6 hours)
- Each Relative Caregiver is contacted by FWC staff to welcome them into the program and assess their needs. Some have completed CPR & First Aid in the community; others have participated in early childhood training.
- Each Relative Caregiver receives an activity kit upon training completion. This kit contains materials appropriate to the ages and stages of the children in their care. Bags have been donated by the Insurance Commissioner of Delaware.
- Each Relative Caregiver is offered on-site technical assistance, introduced to the Early Care and Education Resource Center and given information on Delaware Rules for Family Child Care Home.
- Each Relative Caregiver who has completed the 45 hour training package is eligible to participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Currently, six caregivers are participating in the CACFP and are eligible to receive nutrition training and reimbursement for nutritious meals and snacks served.
- Relative caregivers are offered a new, optional, training: "Healthy Meal Practices" and provided with additional resources developed by Nemours Health and Prevention Services.
- FWC is working with Bank Street College and the National Women's Law Center related to national research and policy for "Kith and Kin" care.

Statistics:

- 600 Relative Caregivers have received training information
- 178 Relative Caregivers have attended training
- 42 Relative Caregivers have completed all 45 hours

Contributed By Evelyn Keating, Family & Workplace Connection

Partners in Excellence Project

The Partners in Excellence Project is a partnership between the Delaware Early Childhood Center, Nemours Health and Prevention Services and the Head Start Collaboration Project. The mission of the Partners in Excellence project is to offer support in the area of children's social and emotional development through training,

technical assistance, and system development mentoring. These strategies are designed to enhance young children's social and emotional development to prevent challenging behaviors, and, when challenging behaviors do occur, to individualize interventions to meet children's and families' unique interests, strengths, and needs.

Ready Children Objective I.4: "Early care and education programs will have access to professional development opportunities related to improvement of staff competence to prevent or ameliorate behavioral challenges in young children with the support and involvement of their families."

Partners in Excellence continues to deliver training on the four Center for Social and Emotional Foundations of Early Learning (CSEFEL) modules, as well as piloting training on the Family Modules and Infant/Toddler modules designed by the CSEFEL and several trainings developed by Devereux. Technical assistance has been designed on a framework of program wide change consistent with the Positive Behavioral Support (PBS) system used in schools that is being piloted in three sites to explore the process used and the resources needed to demonstrate high quality social and emotional foundations for children, families and staff.

Ready Families

Every family will have access to a comprehensive array of parenting and child development information that will enhance their parental capacity and increase the positive relationships between children and parents.

Partners in Excellence has supported a training of trainers on the Parent Modules that have recently been completed by the CSEFEL. Plans are being developed to pilot these modules, with co-facilitation by parents and program staff, at several sites this winter.

Ready Care and Education Programs:

High quality programs that safeguard and ensure the growth, development, health and learning of children; staffed with teachers who are well prepared, well compensated and well supported.

The PIE project is based on the Teaching Pyramid and the module trainings from CSEFEL. It focuses on supporting three demonstration sites through training, leadership team and classroom technical assistance and other resources. In addition there are assigned external mentors that support designated internal coaches with the goal of building a quality system that provides sustainability of the Teaching Pyramid framework. The trainings are also being offered to childcare providers and educators across the state.

Ready Schools

Provide training on developing meaningful partnerships to schools and early care and education programs.

Partners in Excellence has developed and is piloting an approach that provides continuity to the systems that care for and educate young children in Delaware. The evidence-based approaches in the CSEFEL modules, as well as the design of leadership team development and program wide commitment to children's social and emotional development, will provide a developmentally appropriate complement to Positive Behavioral Support that has been found to be effective for school aged children.

The PIE project is working closely with PBS to enhance the connection between projects and the implementation of cross-systemic changes that promote continuity.

Contributed by Dr. Janet Cornwell and Joy Rowe, Delaware Early Childhood Center

IV. Ready Communities

Public Will, Governance and Finance

By the year 2015, Delaware citizenry will understand the importance of the children's growth, development and learning during the first five years and be willing to support and invest in creating an early learning system. The early learning system will be a durable, normalized component of the state budget, corporate investments, and community giving. Public will, governance and finance together create a community that is willing and prepared to support the early learning system. Communities will work together to design and build localized solutions to support their young children and families.

Social Venture Partners Delaware

Social Venture Partners Delaware is a network of social investors whose mission is to make quality early education possible for all children in Delaware by bringing together people, resources, and financial support.

Efforts of Social Venture Partners:

- Since its inception in 2003 Social Venture partners Delaware (SVP DE) has given more than \$2.5 million toward the improvement of early childhood education in the state of Delaware – primarily in the City of Wilmington's' most at-risk communities. During this time period, SVP DE has also invested more than 10,000 volunteer hours from its highly engaged partner base. The combination of financial capital and human capital has created long term institutional sustainability and improved the quality of care in each investment location.
- SVP DE has had a five-year partnership with the A.I. duPont Hospital for Children. This partnership places psychology residents in early care centers to provide year round behavioral health management for at-risk children and families. A resource book covering 300 topics ranging from sleep problems, eating issues, to potty training has been created for each center and their families to benefit from. This book is being duplicated and will be available for early care providers state-wide.
- For the past three years, SVP DE has invested in a curriculum development specialist to train teachers and administrators in inner-city child care centers how to properly prepare their children for kindergarten. Assessment tools and strategies are created for the specific needs of each center and its children.

Contributed by David T. Woods, Social Ventures Partners

Coalition for Early Learning

The Coalition made of the following organizations: Head Start Association; Nursery Kindergarten Association of Delaware; Delaware Association for the Education of Young Children; New Castle, Kent and Sussex Counties' Directors groups; Family Child Care Alliance; Social Venture Partners; Delaware Children's Campaign; Nemours Health & Prevention Services; Rodel Foundation; and United Way, Success By 6™.

Mission of the Coalition: (in draft form)

To advocate for a high quality, well-funded, integrated system of care and education behalf of Delaware's children, birth to five and those attending out-of-school time programs.

To advance the strategies of Ready Communities:

- Members testified at the Department of Health and Social Services budget and Joint Finance Committee hearings.
- Sponsored the annual Early Childhood Advocacy Day.
- Worked with the Kids Caucus to codify Delaware Stars for *Early Success* into law.
- Worked with Kids Caucus to gain support for Purchase of Care reimbursement rate increases, rates indexed to bi-annual market rate study and rates tiered according to star ratings.

Contributed by: Evelyn Keating, Family & Workplace Connection

Delaware Children's Campaign

The Delaware Children's Campaign (DCC) is a nonpartisan nonprofit organization that offers a different approach to child advocacy. What makes DCC different from other efforts is its use of public opinion data to identify issues relating to children that are of concern to Delawareans. Our polling along with the input of our platform committee helped us determine the DCC's agenda:

Reducing the infant mortality/morbidity rate;
Increasing assistance for youth aging-out of foster care; and
Ensuring that quality early education is available to all children

DCC is dedicated to improving access to quality early care and education by building public awareness and grassroots support. Campaign staff are working to educate and engage citizens, media and policy makers regarding the societal cost savings of quality/consistent delivery of early education programming. To date, DCC has enlisted over 700 Delaware voters that have lent their name to the DCC's advocacy. This list will continue to grow over the coming months and represents individuals from all over Delaware. Strong advocacy from the early childhood community coupled with a public will/awareness campaign will help to leverage policies and funding favorable to early childhood.

DCC is proud to be a partner of the Delaware Early Childhood Council and other child-centered organizations. Together, we can change the approach to early care and education in Delaware, with far-reaching, positive results for our children's future.

To learn more about the DCC and to lend your name to our advocacy please visit www.delawarechildrenscampaign.org

Contributed by Rodney Brittingham, Delaware Children's Campaign

Wilmington Early Care and Education Council

The Wilmington Early Care and Education Council (WECEC) met ten times in 2008. Member engagement was a goal achieved this year, with additional attendance of community volunteers, termed "Friends of the Council". Many of the "Friends" represent early care and education programs throughout the City of Wilmington, others represent community based organizations. These individuals assisted with planning and executing events. In addition, WECEC utilized the new Parks and Recreation building for meetings and events. WECEC members are working with the City webmaster to move the website to the City site.

Activities were funded through four sources: the City of Wilmington, provided scholarships and salaries for the part time program assistant and partial salary for the Teacher Resource Center Coordinator. The Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Social Services, provided partial salary for the Teacher Resource Center Coordinator and operational costs for the Teacher Resource Center. The Department of Education provided in-kind support for educational opportunities and the Red Clay School District provided in-kind space for the Teacher Resource Center.

Contributed by Verna Thompson, Dayna Moore, Heidi Beck, Evelyn Keating, and Romisha Robinson

Sussex Early Childhood Council

The Sussex Early Childhood Council is county-based and links statewide early childhood system change to local needs and initiatives.

The Sussex Early Childhood Council (SECC) has spent time this year developing its mission and purpose. The mission of SECC is to foster collaboration among families, communities, providers, and schools for children's early success in Sussex County. Members include child care providers, human service agency representatives, parents, home visitors, school district representatives, and others interested in young children and families in Sussex County. On December 10, 2008, SECC held a meeting with Ann Wick, the chairperson of the Delaware Early Childhood Council, to clarify its charge and discuss the status of implementation of *Early Success* in Sussex County. In order to do this, SECC members have asked colleagues and associates to complete a questionnaire assessing the strengths and challenges in accomplishing each goal area of Early Success as well as where along a continuum of goal completion each person would rate the county. This information will form a foundation to inform future work of the county council. SECC is committed to work at the local level to build the system of early childhood: Ready Families + Ready Early Care and Education + Ready Communities + Ready Schools = Ready Children.

Contributed by Dr. Janet Cornwell, SECC Chairperson, Delaware Early Childhood Center

Delaware AfterSchool Alliance (DEASA)

The Delaware AfterSchool Alliance (DEASA) is a public-private partnership that endorses the goal of all school age children being academically, socially, culturally and physically healthy. Private and public stakeholders, along with schools, children and their families, will work together to:

- Create a long-term policy voice for afterschool programs
- Advocate for policies that support high quality programs
- Support the after school workforce
- Increase public awareness
- Build bridges between the public schools and community-based organizations for school-based or school-linked afterschool programs
- Support family-centered practices

Our work continues on building bridges that link schools, communities, and families through policy development and partnership engagement with other agencies. These links are the key to supporting the whole child, from early care and education programs, through school, to high quality after school and summer programs.

The Alliance has involved itself in many key efforts over the last year that address the common moral, social and educational concerns of Delaware's citizenry, not the least of which were the Governor's Dropout Prevention Summit and the Governor's Expanded Learning Opportunities Summit.

During 2009 the Alliance will work to ensure all children are healthy, ready for school and life by linking together the very best of health care initiatives, early care and education programs, school curriculum, and after school and summer programs.

Contributed by Dave Hilyard, AfterSchool Alliance

2008 Indicators of Early Success

Building a comprehensive early childhood system is complex. Indicators of progress are essential for measuring the State's improvement. The indicators will track our progress as the system evolves. It is the intent of the Council to report annual on the Indicators of Early Success. It is anticipated that the indicators will be focused and refined as implementation continues and additional data elements are identified and become available.

The Delaware Early Childhood Council is pleased to share its first report, Indicators of Early Success. The report was produced by KIDS COUNT in Delaware and was funded by the Delaware's Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant.

Delaware Early Childhood Council 2008

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Social Venture Partners Delaware

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Photos by Karen Kaler

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