

Initial Family School Readiness Goal Procedure

Purpose

This explains how to develop an Initial Family School Readiness (SR) Goal during the intake and enrollment process. Family Support staff talk with families about this initial goal setting process.

Procedure

Use the *Initial School Readiness Goal Form* to complete this goal conversation in Phase 1 of the Intake, Enrollment/Re-enrollment Process. An initial goal is to be identified by the family that is focused on school readiness. It may focus on child development, health or safety topics, needs identified by the family, or on any other family-identified goal. This is separate from, and does not duplicate the *Individual Child School Readiness Goals* that are developed in partnership with families. For extra help, review the Talking Points at the end of this document.

1. Complete the expected High School Graduation Date for the child on the *Initial School Readiness Goal Form* and discuss why this is an important milestone leading to college and career readiness.
2. Talk with families about what they want their child to know or do to work toward being school ready (e.g., “I want my child to learn how to read” or you may prompt them around a need for a health plan).
3. Talk with families about what they can do to support their child in meeting that goal. Explain things that might support the goal, such as singing, talking and reading to their child in their home language every day, or identify the steps to get appropriate health information in place before school starts.
4. Talk with families about how the Early Learning program can support the family and child to meet the goal that they have identified.
5. Talk with families about community resources and supports they can access.
6. Record all of the information on the *Initial Family School Readiness Form* or invite the family to record the information themselves. Make a copy for the Family File to be filed under Family Partnership Agreement. The original goes home with the family.

Talking Points

Below are talking points to help Family Support staff orient families to our Early Learning Program. There are linked resources at the end of this document to help learn more about the Whole Child Approach, our approach to School Readiness, and the Parent, Family & Community Engagement Framework.

- **What is School Readiness?**
 - School readiness is not just about being ready for kindergarten. It is about being ready for college, career, and life. School Readiness is children having the skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary for success in school and for later learning and life.
- **What is the Whole Child Approach?**
 - The approach to education will develop and prepare children for the challenges and opportunities of today while they are in preschool, and in the future as they enter kindergarten, proceed through elementary, middle and high school, and later as they prepare to enter college and a chosen career.

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- **What are the Five Areas of Development?**

Refer to graphics at the bottom of the *Initial Family School Readiness Goal Form* as you explain each area:

1. **Physical Development and Health**-includes fine motor skills (manipulating small objects, using fingers and hands) and gross motor skills (running, jumping, climbing, ball skills), as well as being healthy and safe. This could include having a health plan in place for a child prior to attending class, or focusing on nutrition needs.
2. **Social and Emotional Development**-includes social relationships with adults and other children, emotional and behavioral well-being, ability to express feelings and make safe choices.
3. **Cognition and General Knowledge**-includes problem-solving, math, science and social studies. Math is a very important skill for even very young children and an area of focus that we want to attend to because many children enter school behind in their math skills.
4. **Language and Literacy**-includes listening and speaking, book use, learning the alphabet and print, the sounds of words, and early reading/writing development.
5. **Approaches to Learning**-includes creative expression through the arts and the characteristics of persistence and curiosity.

- **What does the concept of Partnership mean in relation to SR?**

Explain School Readiness as a partnership with the child, family, EL program, and their community:
"We are partners working together to help your child be ready for school. We recognize that your child is first and foremost a part of your family, and that you are your child's first and most important teacher. As an Early Learning program, we want to support you as you support your child, and also provide support to your child within the classroom, home visits and other socializations. Think about what additional resources are available within your community to support you and your child." (Give examples, like the library, health and nutrition supports, housing, their church or other programs they attend, friends and extended family, etc.)

Resources

Whole Child Tenets

<http://www.wholechildeducation.org/assets/content/mx-resources/wholechildindicators-all.pdf>

Approach to School Readiness

http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/hs/sr/approach/pdf/ohsapproach-to-school-readiness_complete.pdf

Parent, Family & Community Engagement Framework

<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/standards/im/2011/pfce-framework.pdf>

Related Documents

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