

Adair County Early Childhood Committee and Adair County Interagency
Thursday December 8, 2011
5:00 P.M.
Nodaway Valley Schools
324 N.W. 2nd Street
Greenfield, Iowa

Minutes/Notes

Attendance

Leslie Stonehocker, Kristen Walker, Pam Ellis, Kim Brantner, Angie Powell, Myra Wilms, Sharon Campbell, Brandi Ann Wilson, Janelle Kralik, Carolyn Myers, and Debra Schrader

Introductions

Deb convened the meeting and introductions were made.

Legislative talking points – Deb shared the legislative talking points that the 4 R Kids Board approved at the October board meeting. If anyone would like to utilize the format and customize it for your program or agency, you may contact Deb for an emailed copy.

Little Lambs/B-F Prekindergarten – Kristin noted there will be 3 to 4 more new students starting preschool after the first of the year.

New Parent Program – Colleen reviewed the New Parent home visitation program that utilizes the Healthy Families America model. They provide intensive home visitation services. Also, the child cannot be older than 3 months old to enter the program.

AmeriCorps – It was announced that Deb Hall has retired from Extension and will now be a part time AmeriCorps member working with youth development.

Nodaway Valley Preschool – Janelle shared that they will be going through ECERS in the next few days.

CCRR Presentation – Leslie provided a presentation regarding Child Care Resource and Referral. She shared packets of information regarding child care centers, preschools, and home providers in achieving a quality rating.

TEACH – Pam provided a presentation about TEACH. Child care providers and preschool staff can earn a degree with assistance from TEACH.

4 R Kids Board Update – Deb updated the group regarding the recent action of the 4 R Kids board to provide quality improvement mini grants and professional development grants to qualifying preschools.

4 R Kids Board Evaluation – Deb explained the requirement of the 4 R Kids Board conducting a board evaluation and that it is required to have community partners assist. Carolyn, Angie, and Myra volunteered to conduct the evaluation.

Preschool Experience – Deb shared the preschool experience rate for Adair, Dallas, Madison, and Warren County. Preschool experience rate is as follows, Adair 97.9%, Dallas, 82.2%, Madison 95.6% and Warren 90.6% with the average of the area at 86.9%. This is an increase from the previous year at 83.0%. The goal is to have 90% of kindergartners with a preschool experience.

Free and Reduced Lunch Rate– Deb shared data from the Dept of Education regarding the free and reduced lunch rate for each school district in the 4 R Kids area.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15. The next meeting will be March 8, 2012 at West Central Valley Schools in Menlo.

Respectfully submitted by Debra Schrader, 4 R Kids Executive Director