

**Lane Early Learning Alliance
Parent Advisory Council
September 9, 2021
6:00 - 7:30 pm
Zoom Meeting**

Notes

1. Welcome & Introductions

- **Icebreaker**
- **Reminder of Group Agreements**

2. ELA Governance Consortium Report

- Kids In Transition to School (KITS): for kids about to enter kindergarten; paid for with Early Learning Hub funds; excellent program, developed in Eugene at Oregon Social Learning Center; creators came to the meeting and discussed modifications that were made through COVID.
 - Possible expansion: embedding KITS into kindergarten day instead of just before the school year starts; new model that we're trying out to see if it's as effective
 - Funding comes from the state, want to make sure as many families as possible can take advantage of the program
 - Kids are taught how to self-regulate, control their bodies, wait, share, be a good friend - come into kindergarten knowing how to be in the classroom
 - Allows teachers to start in a different place rather than having to teach these skills
- Early Learning Hubs saw 1.4 Million cut (across state) last year; advocated for restoring that cut - has been restored! Will be getting some additional funding
- These meetings are open to the public, you're welcome to come!
- Adrian and Nina are parent representatives; you can also chat with them for more information
- 2nd Friday of the month from 3-5;
- September 10th meeting: coordinated enrollment for preschool, childcare; plan for families to be able to apply/enroll for early learning programs all in one place (Head Start, Preschool Promise, etc.); one application, talk with that family and figure out best setting for them

3. Early Literacy

- Learning to read is one of the most important and challenging components of education; can be challenging to know how to support child's reading development
- If a child doesn't learn to read by 4th grade, they will often fall behind peers
- In 4th grade, teachers transition from teaching how to read to reading to learn; kids 4 times more likely to not graduate from High School; why so much effort is put on 3rd grade reading benchmark
- In Lane County: only 47% of entering 4th graders are reading at grade level

- Within the Early Learning Alliance, have applied for grant to address this - bring experts to the table to examine where supports are needed
- Lots of work that can be done at home and in the broader community; ex: Philadelphia has reading campaign that entire city participates in; what could we do locally in Lane Co. where everyone is involved? Ex: go to barbershop and read a book while you get hair cut
- What are you doing to help your kids learn to read or learn to love books?
 - My kid gravitates toward books; never say no to reading a book
 - What did you do early on to foster that? Both parents read a lot themselves; whenever he's upset or needs closeness, read a book together, since he was a baby
 - Disagree that all kinders should be readers - some kids brains aren't ready to read until 7, can get frustrated and discouraged at a young age instead when it's forced
 - Love what Philadelphia is doing; children just seeing adults reading for pleasure - targeted parents ability to read for pleasure; I enjoy reading but I read on my phone, son may not even know I'm reading
 - Bumped up son's enthusiasm for reading: EPIC - ability to go on and have the computer read the book that he chose got him excited about reading (<https://www.getepic.com/>)
 - Love what you said; wondering if there are districts that have higher rates, look at those and see what could be copied in other districts
 - Did all the things: stocked books in room, didn't do TV when she was young, went to story time - will be 7 and she can't read; loves books and loves being read to but doesn't want to read herself
 - Links between income level and reading level? Yes, often greater resources for higher income schools- more enrichment activities, more parent involvement; can look at data by school and broken into demographics
 - Story time at school
 - More activities around reading on weekends
 - Have daughter in 3rd grade, still not fully reading, very behind; have noticed since Kinder; excels in other subjects; were at Corridor Elementary, about to go into Title program to get help and then transitioned to online, support has not been available. Reading has been so negative for her, gets emotional; stopped pushing her reading but continues to read to her; other family members read with her. Loves science: reading the recipe... has been very challenging
 - When daughter was a baby, wanted her to learn to love books; first few toys were baby books; I worry about her success, oldest daughter would write words on paper, she loves books; when she was 4 she said she wanted to learn but I didn't know how to teach her; method in Mexico is very different than here, tried that method with her and we both got stressed and she didn't want to learn anymore. Last year, went to English preschool and the method was different- teaching the sound of the letter; now she can put letters together; parents need

support from teachers or specialists to tell us how to teach our kids, otherwise we get frustrated and kids get frustrated

- Myself, has astigmatism, couldn't read and then would resent it; making groups in classrooms for parents to get together and guide us on what the methods are to teach reading; Facebook group?
- Bess: using social media or family groups at school to bring parents together; once the kid gets frustrated, just perpetuates cycle
- Daughter is starting 4th grade, had lots of books around; never really desired to sit long enough to read to her, was too busy, social; both kids did Head Start; in Kinder bought illustrated Harry Potter. Both parents used 2 languages since birth. Was in highest reading level. Little one is starting to read at 4, wants to read the same books over and over- also had dual languages; didn't cut out TV. Zoey & Sassafras books- BIPOC girl who does scientific experiments, took off on chapter books with this series; Menchie's Ice Cream bookmarks
- Resources for parents to help us teach our kids to read; I was a low level reader, never got extra help in school; don't know how to teach him how to read; providing pre-k to all kids; expecting kinders to read is stressful on parents and kids; after school programs that encourage reading; stressing about common core math also
- In Douglas County, program Get Ready For K - was amazing, age-appropriate, gets them involved and excited about reading; older child is still struggling with reading; do online instruction
- Another parent mentioned stickers for ice cream; Book It when we were kids, do we do book fairs? Anyone who funds reading tutors? Book It: fill out stickers and get free pizza
 - I will say I loved the book fair when I was little, but my family couldn't afford to purchase books, so maybe a scholarship for kids to get to pick a book at the book fair might get all kids excited
- Curriculum we use is Ready Rosie; used it as an educator; video clip that shows you a learning game you can do with your child (<https://www.readyrosie.com/>)
- Agree with lots of other comments; oldest is 13, wasn't a problem for him to read; 4 year old loves monthly book (Imagination Library), gets excited about it; also use Storyline Online - actors read books, do voices and sounds, music (<https://storylineonline.net/>)
- I had my daughter do that testing (<https://www.soisystems.com/>) and found out why she struggles so much to learn to read and comprehension it was amazing
- I think having something like Imagination Library through 3rd grade could be helpful
- When I was a kid, our school library had a path set up on the wall and as we read a book, we advanced on the wall. It was so fun. It was super adventurous and mystical.
- Before covid they used to have read to a dog program at the library don't know if they still do it

4. Announcements or other news good for the order

- Getting ready to update Regional Sector Plan for Preschool Promise- this informs which families are targeted and get priority placement. In Lane County, the groups we want to prioritize include emerging language learners, historically and currently underserved, kids with special needs, living in rural communities, geographically isolated. This plan gets updated every 2 years, seeking parent voice on the Regional Stewardship Committee.
 - Commitment likely one meeting in September, 2 hours

Next meeting dates

October 14, 2021
November 11, 2021