

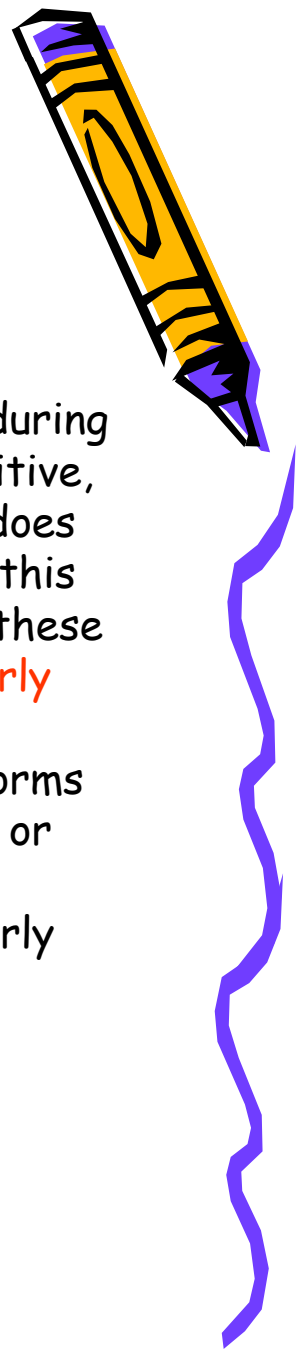


Valley Early Childhood
Capacity Study

Messages



What is Early Care and Education ? (Preschool)



- Early childhood spans the human life from birth to age 8. Education during this period is holistic in that it focuses on physical, intelligence/cognitive, emotional, and social education. Although early childhood education does not have to occur in the absence of the parent or primary caregiver, this term is most often used to denote education by someone other than these people. **It is important to note that both research in the field and early childhood educators view the parents as an integral part of the early childhood education process.** Early childhood education takes many forms depending on the theoretical and educational beliefs of the educator or parent. Other terms that are often used interchangeably with "early childhood education" are "early childhood care," "early care," and "early education."



Why Focus on Early Care and Education?

- Children learn quickly at a young age.
- Recent studies on infant brain development show most of a person's neurons are formed from ages 0-5. If a young child doesn't receive sufficient nurturing, nutrition, parental/caregiver interaction, and stimulus during this crucial period, the child may be left with a developmental deficit that hampers his or her success in kindergarten and beyond.
- Children must receive attention, affection, and respect from their caregivers to develop in a healthy manner.



Message #1

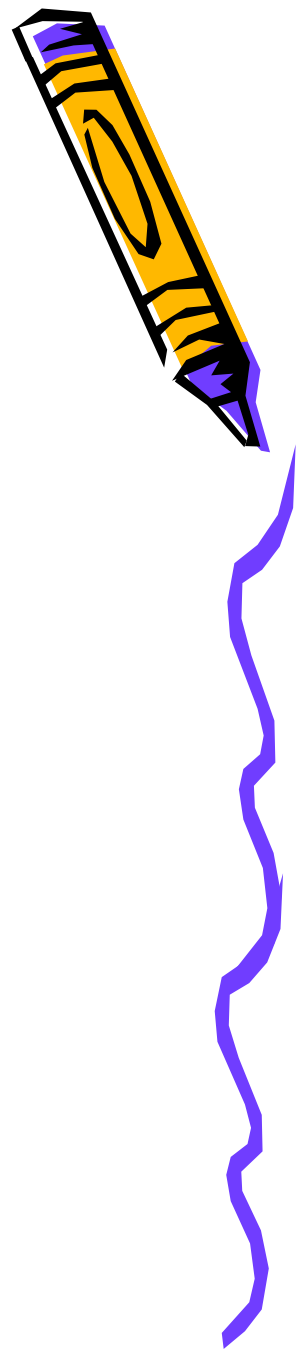
Parents Are Not Accessing Available, Formal Early Care and Education Programs

Entering Kindergarten With Preschool

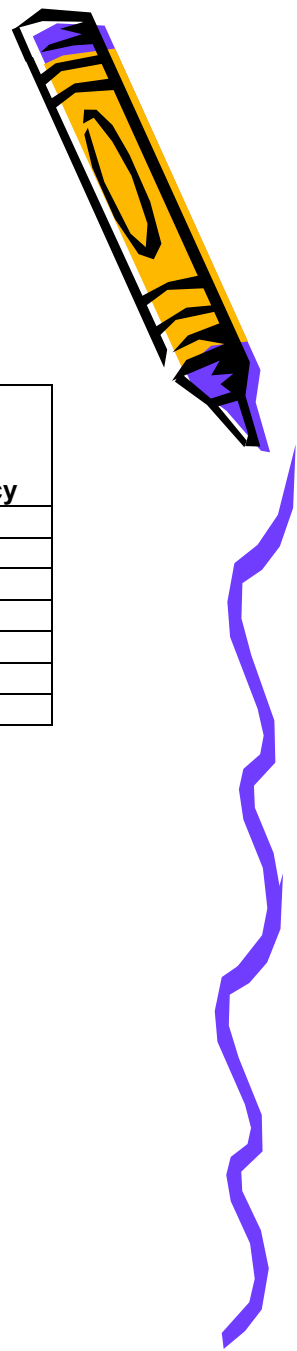
- -Ansonia- 45%
- -Derby- 53%
- -Shelton- 87%
- -Beacon Falls- 70%
- -Oxford- 93%
- -Seymour- 73%

Potential Reasons:

- *Educational Level of Parents*
- *Language Barriers*
- *Affordability*
- *Availability of Infant/Toddler Slots*
- *Knowledge and Understanding of Subsidized Slots*
- *Lack of Knowledge of the Value and Impact of Early Education on School and Life Success.*
- *Lack of Transportation*



Licensed Center and Home Capacity Not Meeting Need



Town	# of Children <5	# of Centers	# of Homes	Total Children 3-5	*Total Children <3	Total Licensed Slots	Total Licensed Slot Deficiency
Ansonia	1281	8	12	494	36	530	751
Beacon Falls	343	2	6	182	0	182	161
Derby	758	4	11	297	28	325	433
Oxford	650	5	11	305	24	329	321
Seymour	902	10	17	609	24	633	269
Shelton	2347	18	22	1468	467	1935	412
TOTAL	6281	47	79	3355	579	3934	2314

*The State Dept. of Public Health only shows total for Centers, not homes for children under 3.

Unlicensed Kith and Kin Receiving Funds from Care4Kids

Town	# of Providers	Total Children >3	Total Children <3
Ansonia	73	94	23
Beacon Falls	5	11	10
Derby	23	22	47
Oxford	1	3	4
Seymour	16	16	27
Shelton	12	19	50
TOTAL	133	168	161

Net Slot Deficiency
1,985



Supporting Research on Value of Preschool



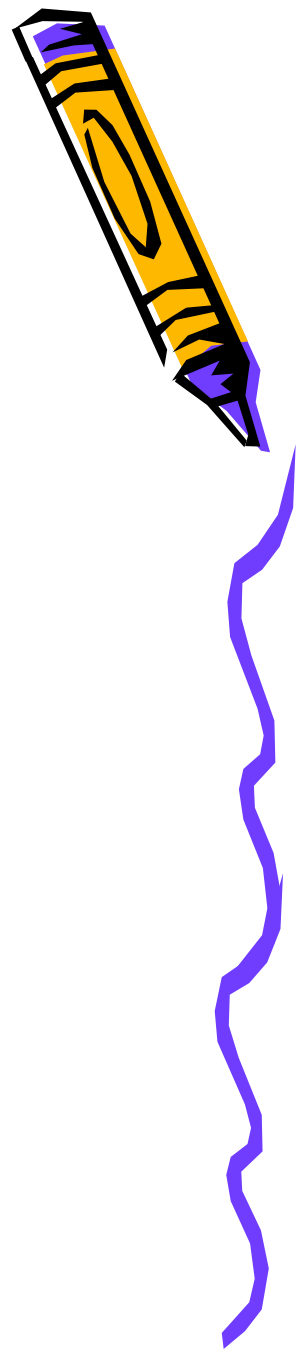
Preschool is valuable because....

- 1. Children show 31% greater gain in vocabulary scores*
- 2. Children have a 44% gain in math skills*
- 3. Children demonstrate an 85% increase in growth in print awareness and know more letters, more letter-sound associations and were more familiar with words and book concepts*
- 4. Children are less likely to be held back a grade*
- 5. Children are less likely to need special education*
- 6. Children are more likely to graduate from high school*
- 7. Children have higher earnings as adults and less likely to become dependent on welfare*
- 8. Children are more likely to delay parenthood (less teen pregnancy)*
- 9. Children are less likely to be incarcerated*
- 10. Children are more likely to own their own home*



Message #2

Children Are Not Meeting Mandated Proficiency on 2006 Connecticut Mastery Tests



Average of 4th. grade combined reading/writing/math

- Ansonia- 38% proficient
- Derby- 44% proficient
- Shelton- 69% proficient
- Oxford- 70% proficient
- Beacon Falls- 71% proficient
- Seymour- 71% proficient

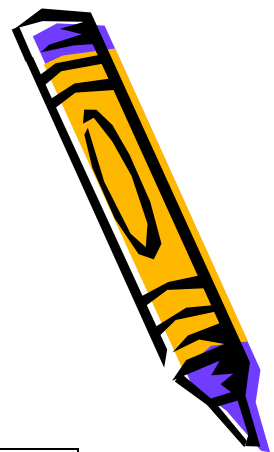
Potential Reasons:

- *Language Barriers*
- *Percentage Of Special Education Students*
- *Literacy Level Of Parents*
- *Lack Of Family Involvement And Linkage Between Home And School*
- *Lack Of Support Services For Underachievers*



Message #3

There Are Identified Areas of Low Income Families In Each Community That Impact School Achievement and Quality of Life



Town	Median Income	# Child < 5	% Entering Kindergarten with Preschool	% of Free/ Reduced Lunch	% Proficient on CMT 4th grade			% Adults without high school diploma	High School drop out rates	Children Speak Other Language At Home
					Read	Write	Math			
Oxford	\$77,126	650	92.9	6.8%	68%	73%	70%	7.7%	0	1.6
Shelton *	\$75,523	2347	87%	10%	61%	76%	69%	13%	10%	8.4%
Seymour	\$65,012	902	73%	38%	67%	76 %	69%	15%	13%	6.6%
Beacon Falls	\$62,461	343	83%	37%	71%	72%	71%	13.3%	NA	1.9%
Derby	\$54,715	758	53%	38%(+7%)	34%	59%	36%	22%	10%	14.4%
Ansonia	\$53,718	1281	45%	46% (+3%)	32%	47%	36%	18%	9%	9.3%
*Lafayette School			63%	46%	41%	54%	41%	NA	NA	19.8%



Comprehensive Messages

Ready Families

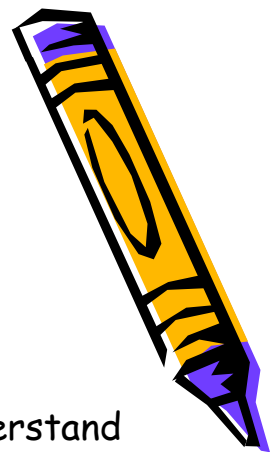
*Have Knowledge of the value of early care and education programs and understand and assume their role in their child's development.

Ready Community

*The Community, as a whole, must create effective and efficient governance mechanisms that support community planning, program development and oversight and includes participation among all sectors of the early childhood field, including public, private, homes and kith and kin

Ready Business

*Have knowledge of the economic impact of early care and education programs and support their workforce to encourage utilization of quality early care and education programs





Ready Government

- *Understand The Value Of Early Care And Education Programs On The Community
 - Available Services
 - Future Growth(Home Ownership, Tax Base,Workforce, Quality Of Life, School Mandates)
 - Reduction In Arrests
 - Public Benefit for Each \$1.00 invested was, on average, \$5.57

Ready Community Organizations and Providers

- *Understand available early care and education programs that support their clients and the need to link services
- *Have knowledge of and implement the State Preschool Framework and include healthy nutrition, safe environments, facilities conducive to learning and diagnostic screening with effective follow-up services to treat disabilities or health problems that might affect children's ability to learn

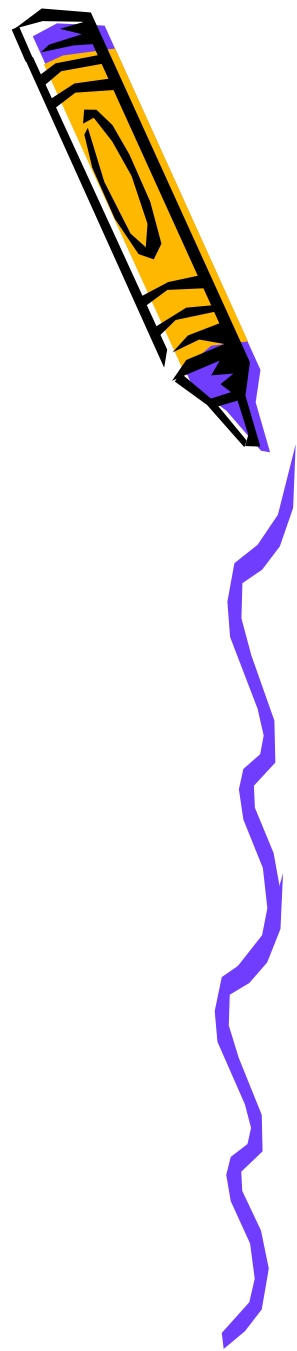
Ready Schools

- *Understand The Value Of Early Care And Education Programs To Support No Child Left Behind Mandates and work with local early care and education programs to engage parents 1-2 years before entering kindergarten



Preschool Is Valuable to Business

- Today's children are tomorrow's workers and consumers
- Educational deficiencies result in reduced productivity and purchasing power
- The global economy requires an investment in the early childhood years for long term returns
- The world's most successful economies are those with the best educated workers

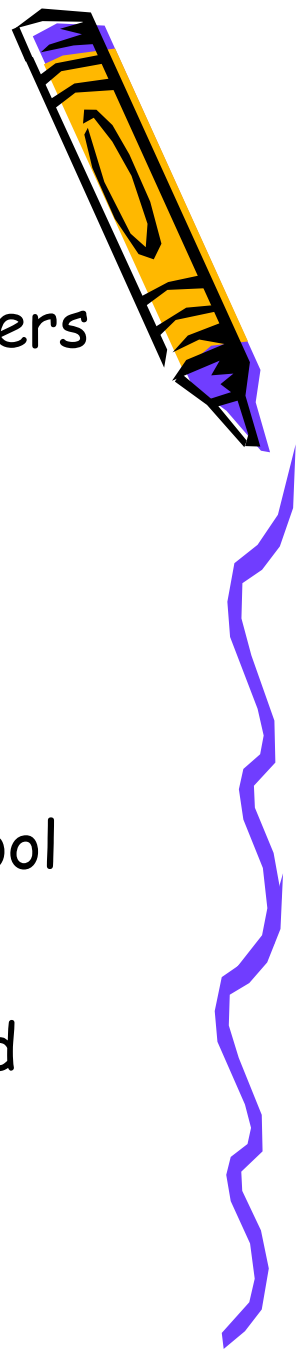


Valley Achievements Early Care and Education

- Ansonia, Derby and Seymour have State Funded School Readiness Programs
- Ansonia, Derby and Shelton have received Discovery dollars from the Graustein Memorial Fund
- The Valley United Way developed and printed a Valley Resource Directory for Parents as well as provided Born to Learn materials that were distributed throughout the Valley towns through School Readiness and Discovery programs.
- Valley Even Start is only one of six such programs in the State
- Valley United Way funded a Capacity Study and established a subcommittee on Early Childhood Education
- The Valley Community participated in a conversation convened by the Governor's Early Childhood Cabinet that contributed to development of the Governor's Education goals and budget recommendations
- Derby Schools received a grant for a Community Forum on Early Care and Education to discuss needs, gaps and directions for the Community
- TEAM, Inc. received funding from the Community Foundation of Greater New Haven to open a Parent Resource Center
- The Prevention and Early Intervention Program was developed by the Parent and Child Resource Center and funded by the Community Foundation of Greater New Haven
- The Valley Directors Network, comprised of home and center based programs, was organized and meets to collaborate on community-wide events and share best practices.



Valley Early Care and Education Needs



- Facilities and Programs for Infants and Toddlers
- Expanded, subsidized slots for all preschool children
- Increased funding for Even Start
- Transportation for children to attend preschool programs
- Formal partnerships with local government and business



Support Valley Early Care and Education

..... Because they are worth it!

