

Strategic Plan 2007 - 2010

Vision

With Community support for all families, every child will enter kindergarten ready for success.

Mission

Mobilize the community to support families ensuring all children are nurtured and ready for kindergarten.

Our Beliefs

- The period of life from birth to age 6 offers a crucial window of opportunity to establish a foundation for success in school and life
- Children in this age group are dependant on their parent to offer early learning experiences that prepare them to succeed in school.
- All community members, organizations, businesses and institutions can play a role to ensure our children get off to a good start.

Strategic Commitments:

- Educate and support parents
- Enhance the system and awareness for early assessment of developmental concerns
- Strengthen and expand early childhood infrastructure
- Increase quality and access to early learning experiences

Core Outcomes

- Children will enter kindergarten ready for success.
- Parents and caregivers will understand and implement effective early learning practices with young children (i.e. reading to their child every day).
- Children will be assessed early and as often as necessary to detect developmental delays.
- Early childhood stakeholders will have increased awareness of each other and their efforts.
- All at-risk children will have access to quality early learning experiences to prepare them for kindergarten.

Our Role in the Community

- Fund early childhood programs & initiatives
- Build community awareness about early childhood issues and what can be done to increase school readiness
- Leverage resources
- Conduct assessments regarding children and families
- Influence systems on behalf of young children
- Facilitator, broker, community problem solver, leader

Strategic Commitment: Educate and support parents

Outcome:

Parents will understand and implement effective early learning practices with young children.

Strategies:

1. Work with and support providers to deliver quality parent education and resources through:
 - Informational pieces (i.e. mailing, handouts, websites, etc.)
 - Literacy resources (ie United Way Books for Kids)
 - Media (i.e. written, tv, radio)
 - Awareness campaigns
 - Parent classes (schools, workplace, church, etc.)
 - Home visiting
2. Develop and distribute an Early Childhood Resource Guide

Strategic Commitment: Strengthen and expand early childhood infrastructure

Outcome:

Early childhood stakeholders will understand what each other are doing and coordinate to ensure a systematic approach to kindergarten readiness.

Strategies:

1. Host quarterly meetings to discuss programs/current efforts/networking.
2. Share information with stakeholders and the community on how our children are doing concerning kindergarten readiness.

Strategic Commitment: Enhance system and awareness for early assessment of developmental concerns

Outcome:

Children will be assessed early and as often as necessary to detect developmental delays.

Strategies:

1. Work with providers to distribute early childhood screening flyers to parents through mail and key points of contact.
2. Work with providers to distribute flyers to parents on Medical Assistance promoting Child & Teen Check-ups.

Strategic Commitment: Increase quality and access to early learning experiences

Outcome:

All children will have access to quality early learning experiences to prepare them for kindergarten.

Strategies:

1. Work with community and providers to increase the number of spaces available for early learning experiences.
2. Provide scholarships for children to participate in quality early learning experiences.
3. Increase quality training opportunities for child care providers (including Family, Friend and Neighbor care providers)
 - a. Increase education on cultural differences
 - b. Research different learning opportunities that can be brought to the Mankato area at a decent price.