

Early Childhood Advisory Council of Washington County



School readiness
is a continuum
that begins at birth.

Progress of our ECAC

- **Developed our Local Early Childhood Council**
 - Did not have an existing council
 - Created Constant Contact group to distribute notes and meeting reminders
 - Continue to welcome new members
- **Shared RBA framework with the council**
 - Planned, facilitated and evaluated 6 hours of RBA training and six 2-3 hour meetings in accordance to the RBA framework
 - Provided access to resources and tools of RBA , including action commitment forms
- **Established support of civic groups, business and medical communities**
- **Being *at the table* is increasing conversation, building relationships, and enhancing collaborative efforts**





ECAC focus...

Community Engagement

Needs
Assessment

Technology
Resources

Literacy
Initiatives

Public
Engagement

Sustainability

ECAC e-newsletter

Members send information to be posted
Delivered every Monday
(Events, meetings, articles, press releases, etc.)

Council Connections
Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC)
E-Newsletter

2nd Annual Western Maryland Early Childhood Conference

93 Childcare Providers benefited from professional development

Successful collaborative effort of members of our ECAC.

Keynote- Executive Function

LOCAL

Tuesday, November 18, 2014 The Herald-Mail A5

Childhood educators gather for conference at HCC

More than 90 early childhood educators from Frederick, Washington, Allegany and Garrett counties and Waynesboro, Pa., gathered Oct. 25 at Hagerstown Community College for the second annual Western Maryland Early Childhood Conference.

The conference theme was "Building a Community of Learners."

Attendees participated in breakout sessions with presenters from the Maryland Department of Education, Washington County Public Schools, Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning

Through the Arts and the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum's Department of Education, as well as local and national speakers.

Liz Kelley, director of the Maryland State Department of Education's Office of Child Care, gave the conference welcome, and emphasized the important role that providers in child care centers and family care homes play in the community of early childhood educators.

The conference keynote address was presented by Ellen Abramson from The Upside Down Corp., whose

topic "The New IQ? Understanding and Teaching Executive Function Skills In and Out of the Classroom" focused on building an understanding of the skills associated with Executive Function, why they matter, and how to teach those skills.

Participants gained an understanding of the importance of positive, everyday routines in helping children develop skills, such as time management, emotional control, planning and prioritization and goal-directed persistence.

Participants were able to choose from nine breakout

sessions addressing topics such as sensory integration, classroom environments, Maryland EXCELS, Kindergarten Readiness Assessments, and STEM topics, including light and shadows, buildings and gravity, and finding math concepts in popular children's books.

The conference was co-sponsored by the Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children — Western Maryland Chapter, APPLES for Children Inc., The Judy Center of Washington County and HCC.



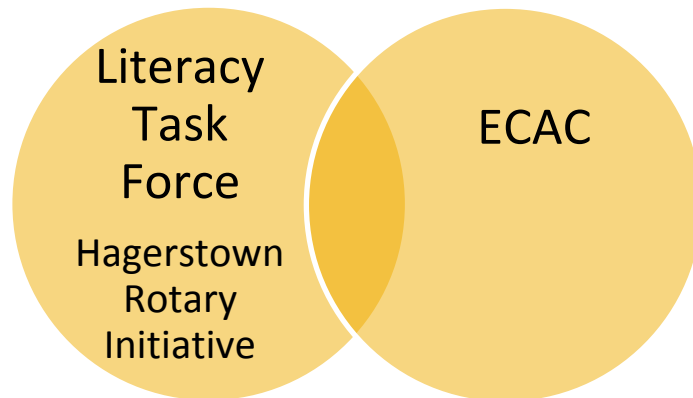
Submitted photo

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Literacy Summit

2014 Literacy Summit- Members of both the ECAC and the Literacy Task Force planned, presented breakout sessions, and facilitated a successful Literacy Summit.

2015 Literacy Summit- The Literacy Task Force and the ECAC are teaming up to deliver a Literacy Summit bursting with Early Childhood information to enlighten, engage, and inspire our community.



Learning Parties

Collaboration among agencies...

Training

Increased community partners

Increased number of
facilitators

(And being continued...)

Outreach

Increased number of families
experiencing Learning Parties

Improving communities
(as parents build relationships)

Community Book Drive



Organized by an individual who is a member of both the
Literacy Task Force and the ECAC

Supported by the Literacy Task Force and ECAC

Over 10,000 books collected

50 collection sites

Kindergarten Transition Committee



☐ Strengthened

- The Kindergarten Transition Committee grew as result of people gathering around the ECAC table.

☐ Ready for Kindergarten Flyer

- Top ten skills, registration dates, contact information, documents needed for registration

☐ Communication Tool

- Developed a tool for childcare providers to communicate a child's strengths and needs to receiving Kindergarten teacher

To Sustain...

- Incorporate plan for sustainability into Action Plan
- Bridge efforts with Washington County Literacy Task Force
- Maintain membership that insures broad knowledge and perspective
- Keep members informed, engaged, enthusiastic
- Maintain purpose of council and transparency of roles
- Identify long-term funding source(s)



Thank you!

The Early Childhood Advisory Council
Of
Washington County