

The Raising of Fort Worth

BUSINESS SECTOR ACTION PLAN

– WORKING DRAFT –

4.26.2016

BUSINESSES AND OTHER EMPLOYERS CAN:

1. Educate employees on the value of quality early childhood education (through flyers/communications that can be provided by Raising of Fort Worth partners).
2. Conduct a survey or focus group to learn about employee needs.
3. Allow employees time off to volunteer at local programs.

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HEALTH SECTOR ACTION PLAN

– WORKING DRAFT –

4.26.2016

HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS CAN:

1. Educate families, patients and staff about the importance of quality childcare, preschool, and early brain development, including:
 - Helping families to ensure their child has a plan for health insurance coverage before leaving the hospital.
 - Emphasizing the need for every child to have a primary health care provider or "medical home."
 - Encouraging families to follow the American Hospital Association's recommendation to wait until 39 weeks to deliver any baby unless there is a medical reason for doing so.
2. Provide expectant and new parents with information about maternal health, parental mental health, baby behavior, and suggested parental activities in a way that:
 - Can be adapted to multiple languages to reflect the diversity of each respective hospital's patient community.
 - Can be communicated to illiterate parents and/or caregivers.
 - Is interactive and/or combines a teach-back method to ensure patient comprehension of key concepts.
3. Collaborate with community partners to expand and improve local health, parenting, family support and early care and education programs, including:
 - Sharing best practices among local hospitals and health care providers.
 - Convening key community partners to discuss early education topics.
4. Provide parents and families with a go-to list of referrals for quality early childhood resources including maternal health, parent coaching, infant, and mental health resources. This will include:
 - Coordinating with 211 and TarrantCares to post a referral list.
 - Posting this referral list of services on respective hospitals' websites.
 - Equipping administrative staff with the referral list to relay to parents or families who call with inquiries.
5. Gather and share the most valuable information sources for up-to-date information on early childhood development, education, and brain development, including professional journals, conferences, and research sources.

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CIVIC SECTOR ACTION PLAN

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CIVIC, COMMUNITY AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS CAN:

1. Educate organizational members and the public about the importance of high quality child care and preschool.
2. Share information about state and local early childhood needs and resources.
3. Organize referral services and/or help lines for families with young children.
4. Take on a project to build or refurbish neighborhood playgrounds or improve child care facilities.
5. Organize volunteers to work in early childhood programs, mentor young children, or read stories to children in libraries, child care centers, preschool programs and hospitals.

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HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR ACTION PLAN

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COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES CAN:

1. Establish curricula that encourage family-centered, collaborative practices among educators, health, and family support professionals.
2. Help evaluate the quality of local and regional early childhood services.
3. Facilitate student, faculty, and staff volunteer opportunities in local early childhood education and family support/parent education programs.
4. Endorse quality early childhood education best practices via journals or other written publications, blogs, social media, etc.
5. Create on-campus parenting and high-quality childcare programs for students and staff.
6. Articulate coursework with other higher education and community training entities to create a career pathway for early childhood professionals.

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FAITH SECTOR ACTION PLAN

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FAITH-BASED COMMUNITIES CAN:

1. Share information about the importance of high quality child care and preschool.
 - Use social media to share important information, events, and key deadlines (ex: articles highlighting importance of ECE, PreK Enrollment)
 - Post information about EC in Church Bulletins
2. Celebrate families raising young children.
3. Adopt a local early childhood, parent education or other family support program, offering financial support and other resources, use of facilities, and/or volunteers from your congregation.

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NONPROFIT SECTOR ACTION PLAN

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Nonprofits and Early Education Programs Will Focus on
Quality | Equity | Collaboration

NONPROFITS CAN:

1. Quality:

- Model best/next practices in early education.
- Educate clients, staff, and the public about the importance of high quality child care and preschool.
Make facilities safe and inviting for young children and their parents and caregivers.
- Model employment policies and practices that are family friendly.

2. Equity:

- Make a concerted effort to reach those who are isolated from the community by geographic, cultural, social, or economic factors.
- Establish meaningful relationships with parents and other family members that are collaborative and beneficial for the child.

3. Collaborate:

- Commit to collaborate with other agencies, companies, and organizations to promote and enhance early education. Goal is to increase resource knowledge and availability while reducing or eliminating silos.
- Use and create opportunities to incorporate information about parenting and child development into existing systems, programs, and services.
- Educate and cultivate relationships with elected officials to identify policy changes with regard to early learning.
- Work in partnership to address underlying causes such as abuse/neglect and homelessness.
- Model and measure improvements in racial equity.

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PHILANTHROPY SECTOR ACTION PLAN

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PHILANTHROPY CAN:

1. Provide long-term support for early childhood system development efforts.
2. Fund, sponsor and convene community mobilization efforts to expand and improve the quality of programs and services available to young children and their families.
3. Fund projects that demonstrate or replicate successful early childhood projects.
4. Fund public awareness efforts.
5. Provide low- or no-interest loans for quality improvement efforts by early childhood programs, including renovation of facilities.
6. Inform policymakers about the importance of high quality child care and preschool, local needs and conditions, and ways to improve the quality and coordination of services for young children and their families.
7. Form funding partnerships with peers to leverage or generate new resources for early childhood programs and services.
8. Use funding programs creatively to meet a wide spectrum of needs experienced by families with young children.
9. Collaborate across sectors to seek out and support best-practice community efforts related to quality early childhood.

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PARENT/FAMILY ACTION PLAN

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PARENTS AND FAMILIES CAN:

1. Join or form parent support organizations.
2. Support and mentor other families.
3. Learn more about early childhood development, including early brain development, and how families can foster positive growth in their children.

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EARLY EDUCATION ACTION PLAN

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EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAMS CAN:

1. Educate clients, staff and the public about the importance of high quality child care and preschool. Make a concerted effort to reach those who are isolated from the community by geographic, cultural, social, or economic factors.
 - Make a concentrated effort to hone in on social-emotional learning in terms of:
 - Taking an inventory of current assessment tools used to measure SE development
 - Narrow down indicators of health social-emotional development into an accessible/digestible list of key indicators
 - Share with early childhood professionals
 - Share with families
 - Develop next steps
2. Make facilities safe and inviting for young children and their parents and caregivers.
3. Use all opportunities to incorporate information about parenting and child development into existing systems.
4. Establish meaningful relationships with parents and other family members that are collaborative and beneficial to the child.
5. Model employment policies that are family friendly.