

# PEAK Connections

## Mid-Year Report

### December 2008

Pottstown Early Action for Kindergarten Readiness



Start Early. Reach Higher.

## PEAK Mid-Year Report

July – December 2008

### Quality Improvement

*Goal: Raise quality at community programs through on-site technical assistance, coaching, resources and professional development*

#### Raise Keystone STAR Quality Rating of Community Partner Programs

- Pottstown YMCA designated a Keystone STAR 3 site

#### Quality Evaluations of Community Programs

- Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale evaluation completed at all community partner sites by St. Joseph's University

#### On-Site Technical Assistance and Mentoring

- 148 hours of on-site technical assistance by PEAK Pre-K Coach

#### PEAK Managing Partners

Pottstown School District  
Montgomery Early Learning Centers  
Montgomery County Head Start  
Pottstown YMCA  
YWCA Tri-County Area  
Montgomery County Intermediate Unit  
Pottstown Family Center  
Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation  
United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania

#### PEAK Partners

Montgomery County Child Care Consortium  
Pottstown Public Library  
Penn State Cooperative Extension  
Southeast Regional Key Dotlen Academy  
Grace Lutheran Preschool  
HENS Preschool  
KinderCare Learning Center  
Tot Spot Preschool  
Warwick Child Care Center

#### PEAK

Pottstown Early Action for Kindergarten Readiness

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#### PEAK Mission

"Every child in Pottstown will enter Kindergarten ready to learn and achieve."

#### Expansion of PA Pre-K Counts

- New class of 18 children added to Montgomery County Head Start through Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts bringing Pre-K Counts funding to 126 free full-day slots at six community partner sites

#### Professional Development

- 20 hours of local professional development

#### Directors' Support Group and Teacher Meetings

- 6 Directors' meetings and 4 Pre-K Counts teacher meetings



In six months, PEAK provided 355 hours of on-site assistance to community programs through the Pre-K Coach, Health Specialist and Behavior Specialist.

### Work Force Development

*Goal: Strengthen and stabilize the community work force through strategies focusing on raising credentials and reducing teacher turnover*

#### CDA (Child Development Associate) Credential

- 17 community staff enrolled in PEAK sponsored CDA class

#### Career Counseling

- 100 hours of career counseling provided to community staff through Delaware Valley Association for the Education of Young Children

#### Collaboration with Eastern University

- 15 teachers enrolled in Eastern University bachelor's degree program for certification in early childhood education

#### Induction requirements for PA Pre-K Counts Teachers

- 3 community teachers enrolled in Pottstown School District induction plan to meet requirements for Pennsylvania Certification Instructional Level II

#### PEAK Teacher Mini-Grants

- 5 community teachers awarded mini-grants of \$500 each to improve instructional practices



## Family Engagement

*Goal: Support families in their role as the child's "first" teacher and provide a framework to educate, involve and connect families to resources, activities and services*

### Ongoing Activities to Engage Families

- Monthly personal contact/follow-up with approximately 10-15 families
- Monthly PEAK Breakfast Clubs at partner programs with involvement of approximately 53 families
- Quarterly family newsletter and other printed resources
- 43 hours of family involvement at partner sites

## Community Outreach

*Goal: Engage the support of business leaders, legislators, Borough officials, community agencies and the public in recognizing the importance of quality early learning experiences*

### Marketing and Outreach

- TriCounty Area Chamber of Commerce television program focusing on PEAK
- Collaboration with TriCounty Area Chamber of Commerce to engage business and civic groups
- Meeting with Executive Director of the Economy League of Greater Philadelphia
- Local media coverage through WPAZ, *The Mercury* and *Berks Mont Community Connections*

## Health, Wellness, Behavioral

*Goal: Improve health, safety, nutrition and behavioral health policies and practices at community programs*

### On-Site Technical Assistance and Professional Development

- 69 hours of on-site technical assistance by PEAK Early Childhood Health Specialist
- 14 hours of local professional development focusing on nutrition, health and behavior

### Curriculum Supplements

- Color Me Healthy curriculum focusing on nutrition and activity added to classes
- Preschool PATHS social/emotional curriculum added to classes

### Hearing and Vision Screenings

- Hearing screenings for 140 community children and vision screenings for 190 children

### Collaboration with Medical Offices and Pottstown Clusters

- 5 local medical offices and food bank distributing PEAK Family Fun Packs to families with young children

### Collaboration with Cedar Crest College

- Classroom activities related to hand-washing, dental care and healthy eating provided at community programs by senior-level nursing students

### Behavior Management Support

- 23 days of on-site behavior management support provided to community programs through collaboration with Montgomery County Intermediate Unit
- Collaboration with Devereux Early Childhood to provide support to Montgomery County Head Start

### Collaboration with Community Health and Dental Care

- Dental lessons provided to sites and resources distributed to families

## Kindergarten Transition

*Goal: Smooth the transition to kindergarten for children and families through activities that form connections between teachers, children, families and the community*

### Ongoing Activities to Connect Community Programs and Kindergarten

- Kindergarten curriculum workshop for 30 community teachers
- Parent satisfaction survey related kindergarten transition

