

### Health and Wellness

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

#### On-site technical assistance and professional development

- 34 hours of professional development related to health and safety practices

#### Hearing, vision and speech screenings

- 179 community children screened through collaboration with Visiting Nurses Association

#### Mental health behavioral consultation

- 87 hours of on-site consultation services through contract with mental health behavioral specialist
  - 180 children observed for screening of behavioral problems
  - Consultation provided to 10 classroom teachers
  - 8 family meetings facilitated to encourage follow-up evaluation for identified children
  - 6 individualized behavior programs generated, implemented and evaluated
  - 3 professional development sessions for community staff

#### Collaboration

- Partnership with Cedar Crest College senior nursing students to provide additional support to programs in the area of health education
- Outreach to medical offices and Health Department to provide families with school readiness resources and information related to health and wellness—900 Family Fun Packets to be distributed

### 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

- Number of kindergarten transition activities between community programs and kindergarten increased from 2 to 17

#### Increase families' knowledge about kindergarten

- Family kindergarten transition workshop held with kindergarten teachers leading activities on how families can support their children during the summer
- 80 kindergarten transition book bags distributed to community children entering Pottstown School District kindergarten



## PEAK Summary of Outcomes 2007-2008

PEAK made significant progress in all key strategy areas during 2007-2008. The strengthening of partnerships with community agencies and the Borough of Pottstown ensures that the focus on early education continues to be a vital part of community revitalization.

#### Key Accomplishments 2007-2008

- Community partner classes increased from 13 to 35
- Community teachers with a minimum of a Child Development Associate credential increased from 12% to 36%

PEAK's impact increased from 13 to 35 classrooms serving over 500 children.

- PEAK facilitated 64 hours of local professional development
- Vision, hearing, speech screenings were completed for 179 children
- Capacity at community sites increased with the addition of three new classrooms
- Over 500 books were distributed as part of *Pennsylvania One Book Campaign*

#### United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania and Other Funding Agencies

United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania provides funding to support key strategies in building a model early learning system in Pottstown. In addition to financial support, United Way provides leadership in creating change and working with community stakeholders to emphasize early education.

As well as United Way funding, PEAK receives funding from Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation, Pre-K Counts Public-Private Partnership, Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts and Montgomery County Foundation. This combined funding and strong community partnership works together to create a sustainable system that has both immediate and long-term impact for Pottstown's children and families.

#### 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 Grace Lutheran Preschool  
Tot Spot Preschool  
HENS Preschool  
Dotlen Academy  
KinderCare Learning Center  
Wanwick Child Care Center

#### PEAK Pottstown Early Action for Kindergarten Readiness

Pottstown School District  
230 Beech Street  
PO Box 779  
Pottstown, PA 19464  
610-970-6655  
Fax: 610-326-6540  
www.peakonline.org  
Email: mrieck@pottstownsd.org

Mary Rieck, PEAK Coordinator  
Emily Baddeley, PEAK Pre-K Coach  
Position Vacant  
Family Engagement Specialist  
Kathy Perry, Early Childhood Health Specialist

#### PEAK Mission

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

## Quality Improvement

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

### Quality evaluations of community programs

- Increased quality at sites with average scores on Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (ECERS-R) moving from 4.41 to 4.86

### On-site technical assistance and mentoring

- PEAK Pre-K Coach provided 281 hours of on-site technical assistance to programs

### Funds for quality improvement

- \$27,750 distributed to 10 community programs for classroom supplies

### New PEAK educational partners

- Four new educational partners added including three part-day preschool programs
- Increase in impact from original five sites to 11 sites with 35 classrooms serving three and four-year old children



The number of teachers with a minimum of a CDA has increased from 12% to 36%.

### Increased capacity to serve children

- Three new classes added at community sites with an increased capacity of 60 children

### Printed resources for teachers

- Monthly newsletters distributed to teachers with activities aligned with PA Early Learning Standards
- PEAK Teacher Resource Book printed for teachers
- 28 Best Practices teacher handouts on a variety of topics developed and disseminated

### Professional development

- 64 hours of local professional development offered at no cost to programs
- 21 staff attended Delaware Valley Association for the Education of Young Children (DVAEYC) Conference

PEAK is a collaboration of Pottstown School District and community organizations that are working together to design and implement strategies that enable children to enter kindergarten ready to learn. PEAK focuses its work in five inter-related areas: community outreach, family engagement, quality improvement, kindergarten transition and health/wellness. PEAK's overarching goal is to build an infrastructure that ensures all children in Pottstown enter kindergarten ready to learn and achieve.

## 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

- Increase in the percentage of staff with a minimum of a CDA from 12% to 36%

### Career Counseling

- 232 hours of career advising with 40 community staff

### Collaboration with Eastern University

- Eastern University to offer a bachelor's degree in early childhood education program in Pottstown
  - 15 teachers completed applications for the Eastern program

### Work Force Development

- Pilot work force development initiative implemented at four sites to recruit and retain a highly qualified work force

## 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 30-50 families
- Two family workshops and monthly Breakfast Clubs with involvement of approximately 70 families
- Quarterly family newsletters to approximately 300 families
- Home visits and referrals to community agencies, as needed

### Family Resource Centers

- Six resource centers at five early learning sites
- Three resource centers at community agencies

## 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

- Month of Young Child community event with over 300 people attending
- Site visits by Senator Bob Casey, Representative Tom Quigley, Congressman Jim Gerlach and Mayor Sharon Thomas
- Distributed over 500 copies of the featured book for the *One Book Campaign*
- *Regional Superintendent Summit on Early Education*, October 31, 2007
- *Business Leaders Summit on Early Childhood Education*, May 30, 2008