

SPECIAL STUDENT SERVICES

Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education

January 2018

Monthly Board Report

For more information, please contact Nancy M. Ford at nancyf@nwresd.k12.or.us

The percentage of Washington County ECSE children who receive their special education services in a placement with typical children has been somewhat stagnant for the last 10 years. Last spring, the EI/ECSE administrative team began taking steps (a) to understand the reasons for the limited growth, (b) assess our inclusive practices, and (c) develop a strategic plan for increasing services in inclusion settings while also maintaining quality services. The first step was to develop a program position statement that spells out the program's shared values around inclusion, which was completed fall 2017. That statement is now being used to assess program practices, and will provide the foundation for the strategic plan. A group of committed staff and administrators met just before the winter break to begin the assessment process. The honest dialogue at the meeting was rich, enlightening, and exciting. The depth of knowledge and experience in the room was inspiring and optimism is high that we can indeed offer a higher percentage of ECSE eligible children a quality inclusion education.

ECSE consultants are currently supporting 154 students on Individual Family Service Plans in Community Action Head Start classrooms in Washington County. Since the beginning of the year, the Head Start program has referred 53 children for evaluation.

Before the break, the Washington County Evaluation Team had their third Equity mini-training co-facilitated by one of the speech language pathologists. During the break additional evaluations were made available for families and the team was able to make use of the new evaluation room. The new evaluation team was hired and the team looks forward to welcoming Rebecca McClure, early childhood education specialist, from Hillsboro Early Childhood Center after a week of on-boarding her replacement.

The Hillsboro Early Childhood Center playground is completed and kids were able to play on it on their first day back after Winter break.

The Hillsboro Early Childhood Center had a successful clothing drive in December for families and the focus was on warm coats, boots, etc.

Tigard-Tualatin Family Resource Center graciously included Tualatin Early Intervention/Early Childhood families in their holiday giving project. They provided holiday food and gifts to 15 EI/ECSE families!

Tualatin Early Childhood Center (TECC) received a donation of \$5000 from the family trust of a former student. This is the fifth consecutive year TECC has received this very generous donation. A few of the items purchased in past years include:

- Telephones for all classrooms with intercom capability
- SWIVL iPad stand that records and live streams meetings/parent trainings
- Projection screen
- Large play structures for inside and outside play
- Climbing loft for the motor room
- Classroom books and manipulatives
- Food for end-of-year family picnic and parent trainings

These donations have greatly improved the quality of services for children and their families.

TECC has worked in partnership with the Tigard-Tualatin School District (TTSD) to develop a mixed delivery preschool. This preschool began on January 8, 2018. Metzger Elementary School is housing this preschool classroom (Metzger Mustangs) at the Beaverton Early Childhood Program. TTSD is providing the teacher and the EI/ECSE Program is providing two instructional assistants. There are spaces for 11 children on IFSPs to be included with their typical peers. This is a wonderful step forward in collaborating to create more inclusive opportunities for children eligible for EI/ECSE services.

On January 8th, the SAIL classrooms at Tualatin Early Childhood Center and Hillsboro Early Childhood Center hosted a visitor from Australia who was observing classrooms implementing the STAR Curriculum. The SAIL classrooms are OrPATS training classrooms, which provide opportunities for other professionals to view and practice implementing evidence based practices with fidelity.

On February 2nd, the SAIL classrooms will participate in a workshop targeting communication skills for enhanced collaboration and equity.

Tillamook ECSE staff participated in an integrative communication workshop in December led by our speech pathologist. It included lively conversations on how to work on communication goals within the classroom environment.

Children in the St. Helens ECSE preschool class are learning about winter themes, body parts & winter clothing. This activity combines the many concepts into a creative project that promotes language and sequential thinking. Some of their creations can be seen below!

