

APPENDIX A, RESOURCES FOR GETTING STARTED

Resources for the Content

North Carolina Department of Instruction approved the use of the Common Core Curriculum in 2010. All school districts must implement the curriculum by Fall 2012. Access Common Core Curriculum and support materials at the following websites:

NC-DPI Standards: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/acre/standards/new-standards/>

Common Core Standards: <http://www.corestandards.org/>

Common Core Mapping Project: <http://www.commoncore.org/>

Childcare Background Information:

North Carolina Child Care Coalition: <http://www.ncearlychildhoodassoc.com>

A project of the N.C. Early Childhood Association (NCECA) a statewide advocacy initiative dedicated to promoting high quality, accessible, affordable child care and early childhood services in North Carolina on this website, you can find material to answer your questions and contact information for your legislators.

Dodge, K. A. & Ladd, H. F. (June 7, 2011). **The worth of children's programs.** News & Observer. <http://www.newsobserver.com/2011/06/07/1253644/the-worth-of-childrens-programs.html> This article is a study conducted by researchers at Duke University noting the value of high quality preschool and the impact Smart Start has had on North Carolina's youngest citizens.

National Child Care Information and Technical Assistance Center <http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/>

This website provides tools, instruments, and reports of studies that focus on a variety of topics on quality ratings for licenses, workforce issues, and more.

PreK Resources

Pre[k]Now <http://www.preknow.org/resource/index.cfm>

A comprehensive website providing myriad resources regarding PreK

"What Children Learn in Pre-K" <http://www.preknow.org/resource/whatchildrenlearn.cfm>

This short video (less than 10 minutes) entitled tells the stories of five young children who had an opportunity to attend a high-quality pre-kindergarten program. This video depicts how quality pre-k helps all children prepare for success in school and in life.

PreK Resources <http://www.preknow.org/resource/prekresources/index.cfm>

This website provides a list of websites, books, and videos for general information about pre-k and why it is so important.

Harvard University Center on the Developing Child

http://developingchild.harvard.edu/index.php/resources/multimedia/brain_hero

Brain Hero is a short film (3 minutes) that discusses the connection between learning, policy, and legislation.

Kindergarten Resources

Power of K http://prim.ncwiseowl.org/the_power_of_k/

Presentation on Power of K <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/program-monitoring/resources/ncace-power-k.pdf>

North Carolina's Position Statement on Power of K

<http://elearnnc.sharpschool.com/cms/One.aspx?portalId=4501308&pageId=4833216>

Top 10 Signs of a Good Kindergarten Classroom http://www.education.com/reference/article/Ref_Top_10_Signs_Good/
Developed by NAEYC, this list discusses what family and community members should see is a high quality Kindergarten classroom.

Effective Practices in Early Care and Education

Learning Through the Eyes of a Child (2002)

http://www.eric.ed.gov/ERICWebPortal/search/detailmini.jsp?_nfpb=true&_ERICExtSearch_SearchValue_0=ED472193&ERICExtSearch_SearchType_0=no&accno=ED472193

This document was developed as a guide for North Carolina teachers to focus on how play-based center activities in kindergarten teach core curriculum skills.

Partnership for Inclusion <http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~pfi/>

Partnerships for Inclusion (PFI) is a statewide technical assistance project affiliated with the FPG Child Development Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

North Carolina Parents as Teachers <http://www.ncpat.org>

Parents as Teachers (PAT) is a voluntary family education and support program for parents of young children. The program is based on the beliefs that parents are their children's first and most influential teachers and that the early years lay the foundation for children's success in school and in life.

Early Childhood Education as a Foundation for a Strong Workforce

The Economic Impact of Early Childhood Investment <http://youtu.be/gnDCxBVCPT>

A news segment from Pennsylvania.

The Center for the Child Care Workforce <http://www.ccw.org/>

CCW works on behalf of the workforce and the web site is designed to help you with your work with children by developing your own leadership and advocacy skills. You can find resources and publications as well as information on federal, state and local policy and initiatives.

The Economic Case for Investments in Young Children

http://www.minneapolisfed.org/publications_papers/studies/earlychild/

From the Federal Reserve in Minneapolis, this study showed the need to invest in early childhood education to prepare the next generation of workers.

Partnership for America's Economic Success <http://www.partnershipforsuccess.org/index.php?id=52>

Results from the National Economic Forum on Early Childhood Investment (March 10-11, 2010) are reported.

Resources for the Process

The Community-District Team Self-Assessment

This tool is available in an online format on the NC Ready Schools website, <http://www.smartstart.org/readyschools>. See the Documents section of this appendix for a printed draft form.

Conducting a Community Assessment <http://www.ncrel.org/sdrs/areas/issues/envrnmnt/css/ppt/chap2.htm>

The North Central Regional Educational Laboratory provided an informative chapter on how to conduct a community assessment. A community assessment is an exercise by which a collaborative partnership gathers information on the current strengths, concerns, and conditions of children, families, and the community.

Assessing Community Needs and Resources http://ctb.ku.edu/en/tablecontents/chapter_1003.aspx

This informational chapter is part of the Community Toolbox developed by the University of Kansas. It details 20 different approaches for assessing community needs and resources.

Baltimore Community School Initiative: Needs Assessment and Resource Inventory

<http://www.baltimoreconnections.org/sctools/NeedsAssess.pdf>

Use this form to assist with a Needs Assessment and Resource Inventory. It has sample questions for stakeholders including students, parents, school staff, and community partners.

Community School Assessment Checklist <http://www.communityschools.org/assets/1/AssetManager/csassessment.pdf>

This tool contains a series of checklists to assist school and community leaders in creating and/or strengthening community school partnerships.

Community Literacy Resource Inventory

<http://www.kitimatcommunityservices.ca/files/Download/Cmty%20Literacy%20Resources%20Inventory%20-%20March%202011.pdf>

This document provides an example of a resource inventory for Kitimat, British Columbia, Canada.

Creating a Logic Model <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/pdande/evaluation/evallogicmodel.html>

Creating a logic model shows the logical relationships among the resources that are invested, the activities that transpire, and the benefits or changes that result. This website (University of Wisconsin-Extension, 2003) provides templates and on-line, self-study materials for creating a logic model to inform your action plan.

Transition from the Logic Model to the Action Plan http://socrates.berkeley.edu/~pbd/pdfs/Action_plan.pdf

After completing the logic model process, use this link to inform the action plan process.

Developing an Action Plan http://ctb.ku.edu/en/tablecontents/sub_section_main_1089.aspx

This informational chapter is part of the Community Toolbox (University of Kansas); it contains pertinent information, examples, and training materials for developing action plans.

Action Planning: Developing a Plan

<https://files.pbworks.com/download/nr1D3cWu9k/bonnernetwork/13113652/BonCurActionPlanning.pdf>

This informational chapter provides a step-by-step guide to developing an action plan.

SMART Goal Setting Guide <http://www.ndgrowingfutures.org/files/pdf/SMARTGoalGuide.pdf>

This website provides steps, tips, and a template for setting SMART goals.

SMART Goal Resources <http://www.aea11.k12.ia.us/ldr/processresultspd.html>

This link provides several resources (PowerPoint, guides, templates, and examples) for writing and monitoring SMART goals.

Books and Articles

- Curby, T. W., LoCasale-Crouch, J., Konold, T. R., Pianta, R. C., Howes, C., Burchinal, M., & ... Barbarin, O. (2009). **The Relations of Observed Pre-K Classroom Quality Profiles to Children's Achievement and Social Competence.** *Early Education and Development, 20*(2), 346-372. Retrieved from EBSCOhost.
- Maryland State Department of, E. (2009). **Children Entering School Ready to Learn: 2009-2010 Maryland Model for School Readiness.** *Maryland State Department of Education*, Retrieved from EBSCOhost.
- Pianta, R. C. (2007). **Preschool Is School, Sometimes: Making Early Childhood Education Matter.** *Education Next, 7*(1), 44-49. Retrieved from EBSCOhost.
- Pianta, R. C., & Howes, C. (2009). **The Promise of Pre-K.** Brookes Publishing Company. Retrieved from EBSCOhost.
- Koralek, D., Colker, L., & Dodge, D. (2002). **The What, Why and How of High-Quality Early Childhood Education: A Guide for On-Site Supervision (Rev. Ed.)**. Washington, D.C.: National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Documents Included in Appendix A

Making Connections

1. Alignment of Ready Schools with Other NCDPI Reporting Requirements

This tool uses the following documents to align with Ready School principles. This tool can be used to show school district personnel how Ready Schools principles support reporting in North Carolina schools.

- » North Carolina Title I Comprehensive Needs Assessment Instrument,
- » North Carolina School Improvement Plan (includes Title I CNA),
- » North Carolina Teacher Evaluation Process,
- » North Carolina Principal Evaluation Process,
- » North Carolina Superintendent and District Personnel Evaluation Process, and
- » North Carolina Transition Planning

2. What do they learn in PreK that helps them in 3rd Grade, 5th Grade, and High School?

This document follows learning development from key concepts learned in PreK through elementary and high school. Use this document to explain the value of high quality PreK as it follows learners throughout their PreK-12th grade career.

Public Relations

3. Brochure

This generic brochure about Ready Schools can be modified to include information specific to individual Ready School partnerships or Teams.

4. Press Release

This generic press release provides basic information about Ready Schools. Drop in information about specific events or initiatives to customize it.

Monitoring and Assessing Progress

5. Asset Mapping

UCLA Center for Health Policy Research developed this informational chapter on asset mapping. Asset mapping provides information about the strengths and resources of a community and can help uncover solutions. Once community strengths and resources are inventoried and depicted in a map, you can more easily think about how to build on these assets to address community needs and improve health. Finally, asset mapping promotes community involvement, ownership, and empowerment.

6. Activity: Core Beliefs for Ready Schools

This assessment is intended to be completed by Community/District Teams to determine their collective level of Ready Schools thinking.

7. Community-District Team Action Plan Template

Teams can use this template to develop their action plan.

8. The Community-District Team Self-Assessment

The print version of this tool is in draft form. The online version can be found on the NC Ready Schools website, <http://www.smartstart.org/readyschools>.

