APPENDIX A, RESOURCES FOR GETTING STARTED

Websites

BUILD Initiative: Strong Foundations for Our Youngest Children.
www.buildinitiative.org
The BUILD Initiative supports State efforts to create comprehensive early childhood systems—coordinated, effective policies that address children's health, mental health and nutrition, early care and education, family support and parenting programs, and services for children with special needs.

First Five Years Fund.
http://www.ffyf.org/
First Five Years Fund, a project of the Ounce of Prevention Fund, is committed to improving the lives of at-risk children by leveraging cost-effective investments in early learning. They work to focus nationwide attention and resources on comprehensive, quality early care and learning programs for children from birth to age five.

FirstSchool: Uniting the Best of Early Childhood, Elementary, and Special Education.
http://firstschool.fpg.unc.edu/
FirstSchool is a PreK–3rd grade initiative to promote public school efforts to become more responsive to the needs of an increasingly younger, more diverse population of children entering school.   Our framework for school improvement addresses schools' ongoing struggles to produce equitable outcomes for African American, Latino and low-income students, the increased presence of pre-kindergartens within public schools, and the challenge of sustaining high instructional quality in every early childhood and elementary classroom.

Foundation for Child Development: PreK-3rd Education.
http://fcd-us.org/our-work/prek-3rd-education
Covers the "what" and "why" of PreK-3rd education as well as challenges, financing, implementation, leadership, and teacher professional development. Includes policy briefs other key resources.

The Heckman Equation.
http://www.heckmanequation.org/
Nobel Prize winning University of Chicago Economics Professor James Heckman provides resources to help understand the great gains to be had by investing in early and equal development of human potential.

New America Foundation: Early Education Initiative.
http://earlyed.newamerica.net/
The Early Education Initiative seeks to promote a high-quality and continuous system of early care and education for all children, birth to age 8. Much of the focus is on PreK-3rd grade. This website includes articles and op-eds, a blog, policy papers, transcripts and resources, current news, a discussion forum, and a listing of early ed events.

P-3 Early Learning and the Early Grades
http://www.ecs.org/ecsmain.asp?page=/html/issueEL_new.html
An in-depth issue site by the Education Commission of the States (ECS) dedicated to topics relating to the learning and development of children from birth to age 8. This rich site includes numerous research reports and readings, overviews of what states are doing, and links to other relevant websites.

Pre-K Now.
http://www.preknow.org/index.cfm
Pre-K Now is a public education and advocacy campaign that advances high-quality, voluntary pre-kindergarten for all three and four year olds. This website features a resource center full of information including an advocacy toolkit, research, state profiles, history and facts of Pre-K, and many other resources (many available in Spanish).

PreK-3rd Data Resource Center.
http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/PREK3RD/publications_resources.jsp
This online resource center is designed to expand the knowledge base and provide tools for the access and handling of PreK-3rd grade longitudinal data. The Publications and Resources section contains documents covering topics such as effective programs, teacher education and quality, investment, and assessment and accountability.

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).
http://www.naeyc.org
NAEYC is the world's largest and most influential organization for those working with and on behalf of children from birth through age 8.

Articles & Reports

A Quiet Crisis: The Urgent Need to Build Early Childhood Systems And Quality Programs for Children Birth to Age Five. A Policy Statement of the Council of Chief State School Officers. Nov. 2009.
http://www.ccsso.org/Documents/2009/Policy_Statement_A_Quiet_Crisis_2009.pdf
The evidence is now indisputable: we can save money, reduce school failure, and enhance children's lifelong success and productivity by improving learning opportunities for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. Building a 21st-century learning system begins with a strong foundation of early childhood programs for all children.

Pathway to Children Ready for School and Succeeding at Third Grade. Lisbeth B. Schorr & Vicky Marchand, June 2007.
http://www.cssp.org/publications/documents/pathways-to-outcomes
A publication of the Pathways Mapping Initiative from the Project on Effective Interventions at Harvard University. This PDF assembles findings from research, practice, theory, and policy about what it takes to improve the lives of children and families. It provides a starting point to guide choices made by community coalitions, services providers, researchers, funders, and policymakers to achieve desired outcomes for children and their families.

Videos

Fighting Fade-Out Through PreK-3rd Reform (Seven-minute video.) New America Foundation (2009).
http://www.fcd-us.org/resources/fighting-fade-out-through-prek-3rd-reform

Growing and Learning in Preschool (Five-minute video.) National Institute for Early Education Research (2008).
http://nieer.org/docs/index.php?DocID=65

PreKindergarten – 3rd Grade: A New Beginning for American Education (Eight-minute video.) New School Foundation & Foundation for Child Development (2010).
http://www.prek-3rd.org/index.html

Preschool: America's Best Investment (Seven-minute video.) National Institute for Early Education Research (2008).
http://nieer.org/docs/index.php?DocID=112

Resources Referred To In The Toolkit, Part 1
Getting Started Section

Comprehensive Needs Assessment.
http://www.ncpublicschools.org/schooltransformation/assessments/
This tool was developed by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and assesses schools on multiple dimensions.

HighScope Ready Schools Assessment (RSA).
http://www.highscope.org/Content.asp?ContentId=118
http://www.readyschoolassessment.org/
This questionnaire and planning tool allows School-Based Teams to evaluate their school's "Readiness Rate" and provides them with clear, comprehensive information about school strengths and challenges. This tool features an online profiler and schools are able to input their scores from the assessment and analyze their growth potential or track changes over the years.

Partnership Self-Assessment Survey.
 http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/family/Family%20and%20Community%20Partnerships/Crisis%20Support/Community%20Support/ToolstoStrength.htm
This tool was created by the National Program Office of Free to Grow, Mailman School of Public Health, for Head Start to help determine a community's collaboration capacity.

School Professional Staff as a Learning Community (Hord, 1996).
http://moplc.org/Documents/Professional%20Staff%20as%20Learning%20Community%20Survey.pdf
This questionnaire provides school staff the opportunity to give their perceptions about their school's functioning as a learning community. This data can also be used by the Community-District Team to inform what needs to occur on a district-wide level.