

Safe Schools/Healthy Students
Kern County Superintendent of Schools

North Bakersfield Community Linkages



Addressing Early Childhood Needs in Oildale

Profile of the Community

UNEMPLOYMENT

- 44% of the community is not working compared to an annual average of 7% in Kern County as a whole

EDUCATION

- 32% of residents do NOT have a high school diploma

Profile of the Community

POVERTY

- 45% of residents receive public assistance.
1/3 of households have an income of less than \$12,000 a year

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- 80% of all calls for Emergency Services in the area are drug-related

As a Result....



- 64% of children in one district and 42% in another district are not ready for Kindergarten
- The rate of child abuse in the area is 70 reports per 1000 residents, seven times the rate for the state

Current Situation



- Children are unprepared for Kindergarten
- Income-eligible children are less likely to get into a state preschool
- Early Childhood Teachers lack training to identify social and emotional issues



Our Game Plan

- Increase Kindergarten readiness
- Increase number of children who attend preschool
- Improve ability of providers to identify social and emotional health indicators
- Increase numbers of children who receive early assessment/intervention

The Obstacles We Face

- Poverty
- Resistance to authority
- Outsiders taking advantages of opportunities
- Childcare providers who babysit and do not provide instruction
- Many SS/HS programs have trouble meeting Element V targets



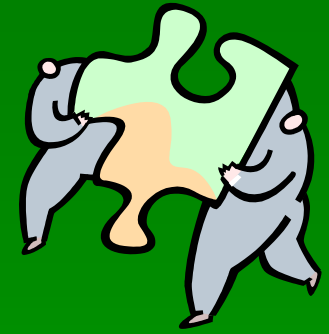
Our Advantages...



LOCAL RESOURCES

- Community Connection for Child Care
- Early Childhood Council of Kern
- California Preschool Instructional Network
- Community Action Partnership of Kern
- North of the River Parks and Recreation District
- Richardson Early Childhood Development Center
- Faith-Based Community

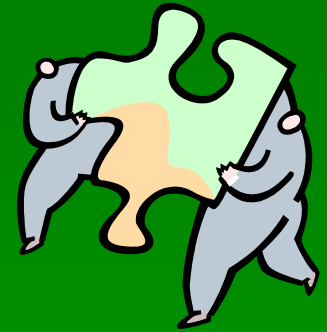
What are we doing?



Established Early Childhood Education Task Force

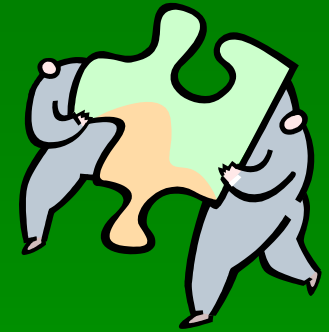
- Working with Schools, Local Childcare Experts, and Community to reach 0-5 children and assist families in getting needed childcare

What are we doing?



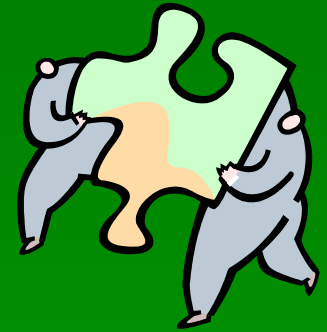
Work with Faith-Based Collaborative to reach parents and child care providers

What are we doing?



Ready to Start Program - 5 week instructional summer bridge program for incoming Kindergartners

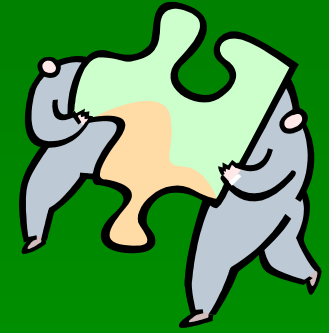
What are we doing?



Parent Education

- Parent Project
- Parent/Child Literacy Groups
- Modeling Play Day

What are we doing?



Scheduling workshops in the community
for Early Childhood Educators

Questions???

