Skagit County

Social, Emotional, and Mental Health

GOAL:

Children are Healthy & Ready for School

OUTCOMES

Parent & Caregiver

Improved understanding & practice of nurturing behaviors to promote children's optimal social-emotional development & mental health

System

Increased availability of appropriate & coordinated mental health services

Child Changes

Increased number & percentage of children entering kindergarten with social/emotional skills

STRATEGIES

1

Expansion of programs that promote bonding and attachment between parents and children birth to three.

Welcome Baby attached to every elementary school; Nurse/Family Partnership Project to serve 50% of eligible young mothers.

2

Expansion of parenting education meets individual needs in promoting healthy social/emotional development.

Increase Parent Education opportunities through multiple methods (classroom, media, home visits, etc) to reach all families including pre-natal and communities and individuals isolated due to geographic setting, language, culture, etc.

3

Increase knowledge and skills of caregivers in supporting children's social/emotional development

.Consultants for EL, curriculum to support positive s/e development, resources to give to parents to support s/e development.

4

PRIORITY: Services support children with significant social/emotional needs.

MH consultants available to caregivers and effective assessment available to support servicesTherapeutic child care and early learning settings with trained staff for children with significant behavioral needs.

5

Media and public awareness campaign (Born Leanring) to disseminate message of the importance of social and emotional suport to young children.

RESOURCES

System Building Initiatives

Participation in Northwest Early Learning Governor's Summit
Development of a county early learning coalition

Participating Systems

Health
Community College
LIbraries
Child ?Welfare
School Districts
Educational Servcies District
Early Intervention
County Government
Head Start and ECEAP
Child Care Resource and Referral

Governance

Children's Council of Skagit County with By-Laws, Board

Communication

E-mail communication
Agency newsletters
Born Learning Campaign
monthly Children's Council meetings

Parent Leadership

Parent groups in Head Start, ECEAP, parent co-ops, school district parent involvrement councils, early intervention parent involvement

Guiding Principles

Parents/guardians are child's most important teacher, services available to all, family choices, individual cultures are to be respected., collaboration among current systems, build on existing resources, close linkages to K-12, smooth transitions, adequate funding, public awareness of value of el developed, strong professional development systems, best practices and current research provide guidance.

Funding

ELOA grant
Safe Schools, Healthy Students grant, county funding, Department of Early Learning funding, Even Start, future private outreach

FAMILY SUPPORT APPROACH, STRATEGY, OR OUTCOME