

# ***School Readiness Indicators Initiative: Making Progress for Young Children***

## **Third National Meeting**

**November 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, 2002  
Providence, Rhode Island**

### ***Participating States:***

Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maine, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Ohio, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin

### ***Purpose:***

This is the Third National Meeting of the 17-state initiative to use child well-being indicators to improve school readiness and ensure early school success. Over the course of the Initiative, states will work individually and collectively to develop a comprehensive set of measures to monitor the physical, social, emotional, cognitive, and economic well-being of young children. Indicators will reflect state investments in programs and policies for young children and families as well as child outcomes. States will develop policy goals and communications strategies to improve school readiness in their states.

### ***Meeting Objectives:***

- To link indicators of school readiness to policy and communication strategies.
- To highlight state work on school readiness policy issues and kindergarten assessment strategies.
- To present outcomes from the second Residency Roundtable on indicators of language and literacy.
- To share strategies for communicating with policymakers, community leaders and the public in order to create policy change to improve school readiness.
- To reflect on the first year of the Initiative and plan long-term strategies.

*The National School Readiness Indicators Initiative is supported by  
the David and Lucile Packard Foundation,  
the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation and the Ford Foundation.  
The 17-state initiative is managed by Rhode Island KIDS COUNT.  
[www.GettingReady.org](http://www.GettingReady.org)*

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Making Progress for Young Children**

**Third National Meeting**

**Final Agenda**

**Wednesday, November 13, 2002**

- 8:30 – 9:00**            **Registration and Breakfast**
- 9:00 – 9:15**            **Welcome and Opening Remarks**  
*Elizabeth Burke Bryant, Rhode Island KIDS COUNT*  
*Marie Young, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation*  
*Lisa Klein, The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation*
- 9:15 – 9:30**            **State Early Childhood Policy Technical Assistance Network: Update**  
*Charles Bruner, Child and Family Policy Center*  
Mr. Bruner will update states on the work of the State Early Childhood Policy Technical Assistance Network (SECPTAN). SECPTAN's technical assistance focuses on states' policy needs while the School Readiness Indicators Initiative's technical assistance supports states' work in indicator development, data and communications.
- 9:30 – 11:00**        **Providing Children with What They Need to Succeed in School**  
*Keynote Presenter: Sharon Lynn Kagan, Columbia University*  
*Co-Director, Center for Children and Families, Teachers College, Columbia University*  
Dr. Kagan will present a framework for using child outcome and systems indicators to move a public policy agenda that supports the healthy development of young children. Her research and experience in states and in the national policy arena will provide rich information for states to consider as they use indicators to communicate with policymakers about important child outcomes and critical investments in young children and families.
- 11:00 – 11:15**        **Break**
- 11:15 – 12:45**        **State Team Meetings**  
State teams will meet to discuss their vision for a Fall 2003 product that will use school readiness indicators to inform state and local policymakers and community leaders. The final product will use indicators to highlight the status of young children from birth to age eight as well as the family, community and systems factors that either support or compromise their school readiness.
- 12:45 – 1:30**         **Lunch**
- 1:30 – 2:00**            **Language and Literacy: Results from the Residency Roundtable**  
*Presenter: Catherine B. Walsh, Rhode Island KIDS COUNT*  
Ms. Walsh will share the highlights of the Residency Roundtable on language development and literacy. She will also give ideas on how the indicator lists developed at the roundtable can be used in the states.

**2:00 – 3:00**

**2002 Elections: Challenges and Opportunities**

*Presenters: Elizabeth Burke Bryant, Rhode Island KIDS COUNT  
Karen Ortiz, Children's Action Alliance, Arizona  
Anna Lovejoy, National Governors Association  
Teresa Myers, National Conference of State Legislatures*

The recent elections will have an impact on the political climate in some states. State Team Coordinators from Rhode Island and Arizona will discuss the challenges and opportunities of upcoming administrative transitions. National partners, Ms. Lovejoy and Ms. Myers, will briefly share their organizations' perspectives on the recent changes at the gubernatorial and legislative levels. An opportunity for participants to discuss the recent changes in state leadership will follow.

**3:00 – 3:15**

**Break**

**3:15 – 4:15**

**FrameWorks**

*Presenter: Susan Nall Bales, FrameWorks Institute*

Ms. Bales will share the results of recent focus group research in the school readiness indicator states. The research explored public attitudes on school readiness issues and early care and education.

**4:15 – 4:30**

**Review and Preview**

**4:30 – 5:30**

**Break**

**5:30 – 6:30**

**Evening Event**

**Thursday, November 14, 2002**

**8:00 – 9:00**

**State Team Coordinator Breakfast**

**8:30 – 9:00**

**Breakfast for Participants**

**9:00 – 10:30**

**Communications Power: Building a Communications Strategy to Promote Policies for Children**

*Presenter: Phil Sparks, Communications Consortium Media Center*

How do we communicate our policy vision most effectively? Phil Sparks returns to share methods of communicating policies effectively and using partnerships strategically to advance children's school readiness.

**10:30 – 10:45**

**Break**

**10:45 – 12:00**

**Cross-State Meetings**

Participants will share ideas for final products and communication strategies that will help to move their work forward. States will identify allies and opportunities as well as challenges to be addressed in order to have a final product that will highlight the status of young children from birth to age eight as well as the family, community and systems factors that either support or compromise their school readiness. The group will reconvene at 11:30 am to briefly report out on their discussions.

**12:00 – 1:00**

**Lunch**

**1:00 – 2:00**

**Kindergarten Assessments as a Tool to Measure Community Progress in Developing Children's School Readiness**

*Presenters: Charles Bruner, Child and Family Policy Center  
Anna Lovejoy, National Governors Association  
Ruth Flynn, Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education*

Mr. Bruner will present the findings from a paper he prepared as part of the State Early Childhood Policy Technical Assessment Network (SECPTAN). He will highlight some key questions and principles to consider as states develop kindergarten assessments to assess the skills of children entering school. The presentation will highlight the different purposes of assessment and stimulate dialogue on how kindergarten assessments can – or can not – be used to measure progress for schools or communities. Much depends on how they are designed and administered.

**2:00 – 3:00**

**State Policy Presentations: New Jersey and Arkansas' Pre-K Models**

*Presenters: Nancy Sconyers, Association for Children of New Jersey  
Lorraine Cooke, NJ Association for the Education of Young Children  
Kathy Stegall, Arkansas Department of Human Services  
Amy Rossi, Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families*

New Jersey will share information on its preschool program, which resulted from a state Supreme Court decision in the Abbott case. The presentation will address numerous aspects of the program, including the coalition work that led to adoption of the program standard, the high quality nature of the standard, the challenge to higher education, and the unique collaborative model in place which brings together education, child care and Head Start.

Arkansas will share its work on developing a Core Quality Model for public pre-K, an extensive task which included restructuring, evaluation, support from the State Board of Education, and determination of how to allocate revenues from the state Beer tax for preschool. Panelists will also discuss a recent court ruling which includes early childhood education as a necessary component and recommendations on "universal access to preschool education."

**3:00 – 3:15**

**Break**

**3:15 – 4:00**

**Reflections: Where Are We Now and Where Are We Going?**

*Elizabeth Burke Bryant, Rhode Island KIDS COUNT*

We will celebrate and recognize our accomplishments during our first year and discuss future goals for our work.