

SUPPORTING TRANSITIONS AT TCSD #1

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BRIT HOYT - COLTER ELEMENTARY GEER GRANT

Intent:

- Kindergarten community collaboration
- Developmentally appropriate learning responsive to all kinds of kids
- Family inclusion

Actions:

1. Home learning kits
2. K Community Conversations Series
3. Developmentally appropriate play learning “Cabin”

APPLYING DEVELOPMENTAL SCIENCE AND TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES

Supporting children and families re-entering early childhood programs

HOME LEARNING KITS

- **Fun supplies to ease transitions** from live school to virtual school and quarantine
- **Hands-on STEAM kits to extend learning** beyond iPads and worksheets
- Allow for kids to **explore** multiple modes of learning at their **developmental level**
- **Stress relief**
- Supplies **for families in need** or with multiple kids at home



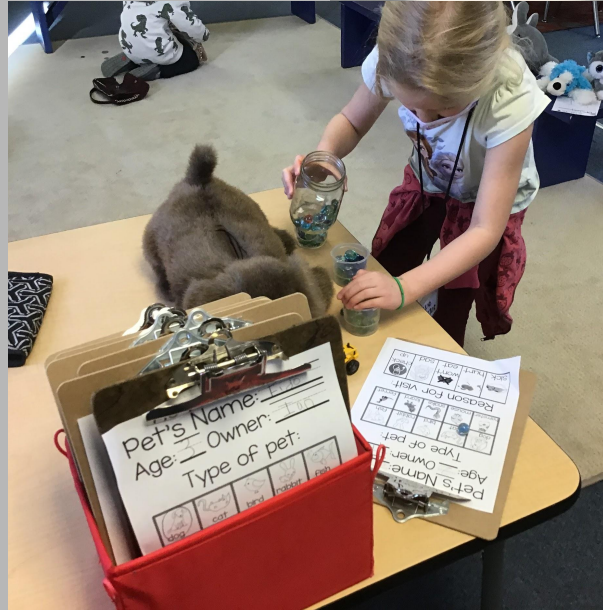
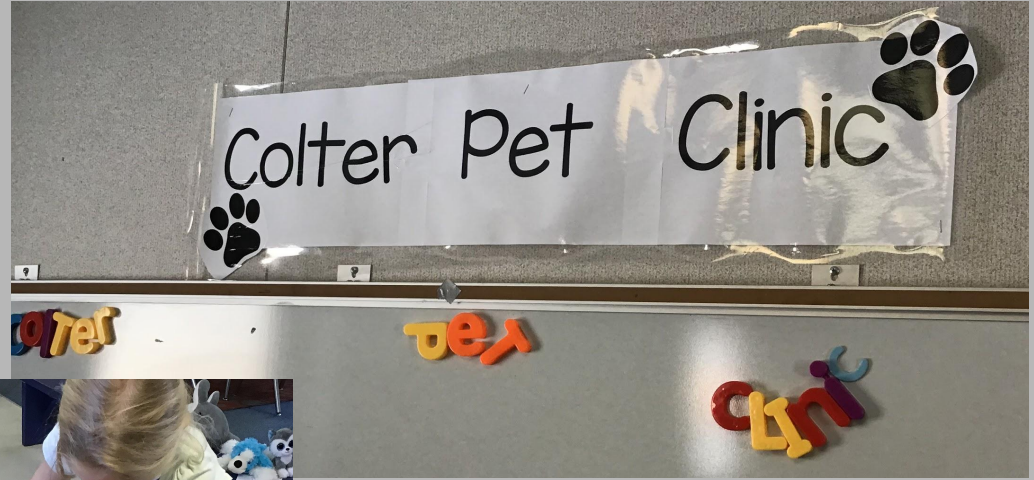
Kindergarten Conversations

1. Nikki, UW Early Childhood Ed: ***Welcome/Brain Research 10/27***
2. Mandy, SLP: ***How to Read to Your Child/Fostering Oral Language 11/17***
3. Megan (Teacher Leader) & Brit (Reading Recovery & SpEd teacher) & Neida (Dual-Immersion Teacher): ***Early Literacy - beyond "sounding it out" 12/15*** - with Spanish language break-out room
4. Anne & Hille, Reading Recovery: ***Writing and Early Literacy 1/27***

"THE CABIN"



"THE CABIN"



“‘Simple Interactions’ approach to closely examine adult-child interactions in everyday contexts...these interactions weave together four basic building blocks of the human relationship – **connection, reciprocity, inclusion, and opportunity to grow** – to make positive developmental impacts.” ~Dana Winters, Ph.D.

NEXT STEPS

- Expand all to reach more kids, teachers and families
- Establish solid avenues for connecting with, supporting, celebrating, and learning from families who speak different languages
- Create stronger networks with community partners (after-school and extra-curricular activities, technology specialists, non-profits, doctors & nurses, business professionals, etc.)
- ***Working from teacher, parent, and student-centered initiatives lifts the challenge from delegated tasks to inspired empowerment...things happen!***

KATE KOOL - KINDER TEACHER TRANSITION IDEAS



Start with teacher led ideas, then they can become district initiatives.

1. The K team meeting with Pre-K teachers to discuss their routines/ strategies/ favorite songs and books. We did this informally at a park on a Saturday.
2. During the summer, reading a book aloud to incoming Kinders in the Pre-K spaces, and do a quick promo for how much fun we have in Kindergarten.
3. Late evening Zoom sessions with new parents in September, invite former parents.
4. ZOOMING during events (ABC Dance, Letter Fashion Show)

GEERS GRANT - AN OUTDOOR LEARNING SPACE TENT, PERSONAL DESKS, MICROPHONES, ETC.

Uses

- meeting as a morning meeting / closing circle (we use scoop rocker chairs and a microphone)

There was no space in the classroom for “circle meetings”

- Daily math / science/ art activities

- A meeting space for teachers

Future Possibilities

- Inviting parents for outdoor events (Ice cream socials, publishing parties, holiday parties, Kinder graduation)

- teachers hosting storytimes for Pre-K students to join with their Kinder classes throughout the year.

SEL AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR

STEM bins - Students choose box of blocks, legos, etc. and build!
Good way for them to start the day with play, expression, and connection to me as they explain their creations.

-Morning meetings

1. Make it a great day _____, respond back and pass to the next friend in the circle
2. Share out!
 - a. Monday - "The best part of my weekend was_____"
 - b. Tuesday Newsday
 - c. Wednesday - Would you rather Wednesday? Would you rather go to the pool or camping?
 - d. Thursday - Favorite things "What is your favorite ice cream?"
 - e. Friday - Virtual Scavenger Hunt

Use photos for everything! Ask parents for family photos, pet photos, etc. Take a lot of pictures throughout the day, review what you see, what is going well.

Super Student Lessons - boost each other up!

Be around at lunch, go to recess! Ask questions!

End the day with a closing circle, we do Roses and Thorns from the day



A pineapple!





ALEX GOE - TCSD PRESCHOOL LIAISON



- ★ Connect with area ECCs to plan collaborative opportunities and gain feedback around previous transition process.
 - Support incoming families earlier by attending information sessions, registration help nights, and preschool family nights.
- ★ Create an ideal transition timeline that encompasses the entire year preceding kindergarten.
- ★ Provide opportunities for Pre-K and K teachers to collaborate and learn together around readiness and incorporating play into K, in an effort to make environments more similar.
 - Virtual “live” observations in both settings / Zoom debrief Q&A / Shared PD

ALEX GOE - TCSD PRESCHOOL LIAISON CONTINUED...

- ★ Kinder Ambassador Program (“A Day in the Life”) Videos
 - Video a kindergartner’s day through their own perspective & share with area preschools
 - Chance for K students to be role models and feel ‘big’
 - Opportunity for preschoolers to ‘visit’ their new school settings & check out the most important areas (classroom, playground, bathrooms, specials etc)
 - In the future (sans COVID) preschoolers will be invited to visit K classrooms & spend time with their K ambassadors.

- ★ Reimagine the K Round-Up Screener
 - Move towards an opportunity to connect with incoming families and welcome them to their new school communities
 - Take place in August
 - Tour the school
 - Spend more time at the school in comfortable settings & less time being formally screened → hopefully get a better picture of each student in more authentic school settings, than the original screener provided.