

Collaboration is Key for Kindergarten Success

Julie Piazza-King: Director of Community Services
Melissa Dettmer: Literacy Coordinator



How Important is School Readiness?

The development of school readiness skills allows school teachers to expand and further develop a child's skills in the specific areas of social interaction, play, language, emotional development, physical skills, literacy and fine motor skills.



“Creating effective partnerships between schools, parents, and communities isn’t just a nice idea. It’s a necessity.”

D. Davies (How to Build Partnerships that Work)

Why Collaborate?

Building partnerships takes time, communication, effort, and sometimes compromise. So, why do it? Why not just continue operating independently?



Benefits of a Kindergarten Readiness Collaboration

- ❑ Shared Resources
- ❑ Shared Expertise and Knowledge
- ❑ Improve the Quality of Programming
- ❑ Smoother Transition to Kindergarten
 - by building consistent and aligned delivery systems



What community stakeholders need to be “at the table?”

- Child Care/ Preschool Providers
- Local School Districts
- Help Me Grow
- Libraries
- Health Department
- ECMH Providers
- Others?

Our collaborative – Ready, Set, Go... To Kindergarten

Background:

Launched in 2012 after a year of assessment and planning with a goal to engage early childhood education providers and stakeholders in a community effort to increase kindergarten readiness among Elyria's children.

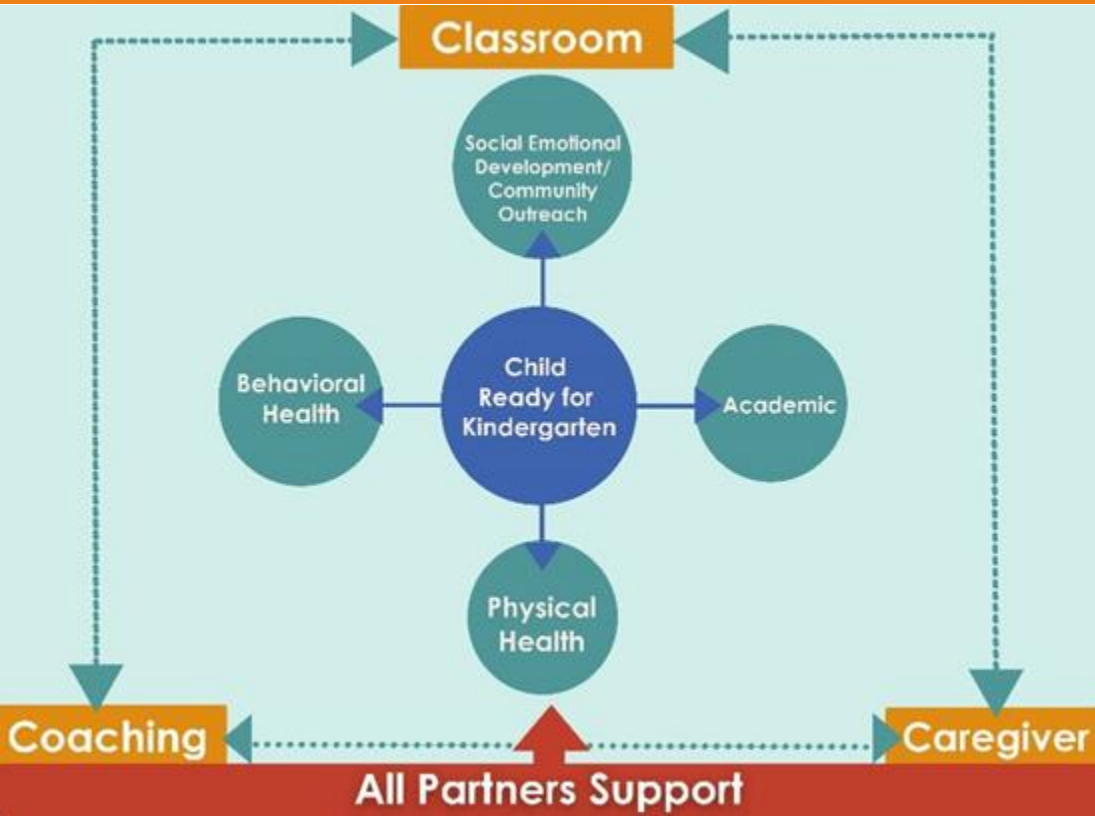
Mission and Vision:

The vision of RSG is for all of Elyria children to arrive ready for kindergarten. The mission of RSG is to promote the healthy development of all Elyria's children including their physical, emotional, social and educational needs so children enter kindergarten ready to learn.

Comprised Of: 13 Community Stakeholders; 16 Early Care and Education Providers



Our collaborative – Ready, Set, Go... To Kindergarten



Comprehensive Literacy Connection: The impact of working together

Collaborative Community Culture:

- Shared vision for the community: For all children to arrive ready for Kindergarten

High Quality Instruction:

- Standardized, high-quality instruction methods
- Shared Literacy Coach- ensures consistency and effectiveness in teaching approaches.

Data Driven Partnership:

- Enables the sharing of data, strengths, and innovative ideas for continuous growth and improvement.

Sustainability:

- Encourages ongoing collaboration beyond the grant period, fostering a culture of sustainable literacy growth and lifelong learning.



Video spotlights with our partners!

Common Challenges	Recipe for Success
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Building gaps between differences in attitudes, beliefs and backgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regularly scheduled partnership meetings with open respectful communication
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Building trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Valuing each other's expertise and knowledge
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Getting the buy-in and ongoing support of key decision makers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Designate a point person for each partner to manage and cultivate the partnership
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Speaking a common language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish metrics for measuring success
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finding time for frequent, regular and open communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A formalized agreement, such as a memorandum of understanding (MOU)

Video spotlights with our partners!



1. IN WHAT WAYS HAS THE GRANT FOSTERED COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS WITH FAMILIES AND SUPPORTED COLLABORATION IN THE BROADER COMMUNITY (RSG) TO SUPPORT LITERACY DEVELOPMENT?



POWERED BY



Core Tasks: Building the Partnership

1. Identify the need for the partnership;
2. Identify who needs to be “at the table” and their willingness to partner;
3. Establish how this “stakeholder group” will be convened and how communication will happen;
4. Create a vision of what the partnership will strive to accomplish;
5. Develop data-informed strategic goals both partners contribute to and support;
6. Create a formal partnership agreement such as a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

(Promising Practices for Preschool Partnerships-October 2019)



Group Planning

What is the need to form a collaboration?

Who do you currently collaborate with?

Who else needs to be at the table?



Contact Us!

Julie Piazza-King: Director of Community Services
Jpiazza-king@horizonohio.org



Melissa Dettmer: Literacy Coordinator
Mdettmer@horizonohio.org

