

School Readiness



**VOLUNTARY FOUR YEAR OLD PRESCHOOL
DUBUQUE, IOWA**



Starting the Journey

State of Iowa awarded Dubuque a \$2.8 million dollar grant in June of 2008

Requirements:

Minimum of ten hours of free preschool per week

Open to every four-year-old citizen of Iowa

Must be four by September 15 the of the program year

Teacher must be a State Board of Education Certified Teacher

No more than 20 children per class



Current Status

Enrollment: 781

SWVPP 30 sites within the community: public, faith-based, not-for profit and for profit

68 sections of Preschool

49 Teachers

265 Preschoolers and *younger siblings* served through Parents as Teachers

Parent Engagement

- Required in-home meeting with parents at the beginning of the year
- Parent-Teacher Conferences fall and spring
- Written progress reports winter and summer
- Quarterly family activity nights throughout the city
- Opportunity for participation in Parents as Teachers (PAT) program


Common curriculum throughout the city: Creative Curriculum

Common Assessment: 3 benchmark periods each year using Creative Curriculum Gold

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Physical Fine and Gross Motor
- Social-Emotional
- Language
- Cognitive

Common Professional Development for teachers and para-educators

Professional Development around data analysis; disaggregated by district, school/center, classroom and individual student



Dubuque Data Outcomes, Spring 2012

N=817

	Widely Held Expectations			Performance and Growth
	Below	Meets	Exceeds	
Literacy	2.8%	77.4%	19.7%	+24.3
Mathematics	9.6%	73.5%	16.7%	+13.1
Cognitive	5.1%	83.4%	11.3%	+15.9
Language	5.7%	80.2%	14%	+11.2
Physical-Fine Motor	4.7%	67.3%	27.8%	+2.7
Social-Emotional	5.9%	64.6%	29.3%	+15.3

What percentage of 4 year-old preschoolers meet widely held expectations for children of the same age or class?

Is this group of 4 year-old children meeting demonstrating appropriate progress?
Score represents growth fall to spring measuring raw score point on a learning continuum for children age 3 through age 5.

What We Have Learned

- **Collaboration on Trust and Transparency never ends.**
 - Enrollment
 - Budget
- **Changing the preschool paradigm still has a long way to go:**
 - Preschool as profit.
 - Preschool as play.
 - Preschool as a means of sorting children.
- **Implementation: You're never as far as you think you are!**

Our Work Tomorrow...

Opportunities

- Common expectations and outcomes for preschool children
- Common expectations for faculty and staff
- Common Professional Development
- Transition from preschool to kindergarten
- Discussions about standardized training and curriculum for children 0-3

Challenges

- Financial Stability
- Highly Qualified Teachers and Support Staff
- Measuring fidelity of implementation of the curriculum
- Measuring student success with validity and reliability
- Maintaining Instructional Coaches
- Vision for access to the parent education