In August, the Road to Early Achievement and Development of Youth (READY) Initiative hosted an Early Care and Education (ECE) and Kindergarten Exchange Event. Kindergarten teachers, ECE providers and administrative staff exchanged ideas on how to strengthen the Bridge between early learning and kindergarten.

While some of these ideas are easy and affordable to implement, others will require deep systemic changes. READY is excited to synthesize and share these ideas with the ECE and Kindergarten community, First 5, Upstream Investments and Cradle to Career to help guide the development of new strategies for strengthening the Bridge between early learning and kindergarten.

This report details all the ideas shared by participants. Please refer to READY's 1-page report to review the top themes and ideas.

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**Teacher Engagement**

**Teacher Exchange**
- Teacher visits to classrooms – preschool teachers visit kindergarten and K teachers visit preschools
- Meetings and/or organized sharing of ideas and practices between local preschools and elementary schools
- ECE & K teachers attend trainings together

**Tools for Teachers**
- Checklist/wish list for ECE providers of things ECE students need to know to be ready for kindergarten
- Blog/some way to connect with preschool teachers about student info
- Film model ECE and TK/K classrooms and create a library of videos on a private group
- Kindergarten and preschool teachers knowing developmental stages, preschool standards, and kindergarten standards
- Research retired teachers to see if we can make connections
- Teach mind body medicine to the little ones
- Online app
- Social emotional KIMOCHI toy
- Create and deliver a thank you food gift basket to all the K teachers from our schools for teaching our preschoolers
- Practice Martin Buber "I–Thou"
2019 ECE & Kinder Exchange Ideas

Student Engagement

Student Exchange
- preschool field trip to kindergarten classroom
- preschool project collaboration with TK and kindergarten classes
- high school students helping preschool and kindergarten students

Tools for Students
- photo boards of the kindergarten schools and teachers that preschoolers will go to
- platform for kindergartners to provide advice to ECE students
- video or demonstration of role-playing social behaviors

Off-Site Student Exchange / Events
- photo scrapbook showcasing a child in preschool to share with kindergarten teachers
- ECE partners create "picture buddies" with local schools
- Exploratorium trip
- field trips with different ages and grades of kids
- physical education with diverse grades of students
- nature walks
- gardening
- school carnival day

DATA

DRDP & Assessment Data Sharing
- DRDP in preschool to be shared with kindergarten teachers
- preschool assessments given to kindergarten teachers

KSEP
- revisit assessment process to make more aligned
- KSEP results by domain to preschool and kindergarten teachers
**Parent Engagement**

**Involvement in Readiness**
- Parent, preschool, and kindergarten teacher meeting
- Educating parents on ECE and other program options
- Kindergarten teacher visits preschool parents prior to starting and vice versa
- Family literacy nights – "read aloud" ideas, book resources, supplies, promote love of reading
- Creating community awareness about the importance of planning ahead for ECE placement

**Involvement in School**
- Encourage parents to visit kindergarten campus for transitioning
- "Here is what your child needs to know for kindergarten" to parents
- Mailers to families about our programs – preschools/TK/kindergarten

**Tools for Parents**
- Creating more opportunities for parents to interact with their child in a school setting
- Map of day care, ECE and kindergarten sites
- List of local daycares filing into local schools, public and private
- Provide lists of all programs made available or easily accessible to parents and families

**Systems**
- Smaller TK ratios
- Free TK in a mixed delivery system including private schools
- Create a certificate/credential program for birth to eight years
- NAEYC accreditation

**Staffing**
- Require that TK be a separate class with small adult to student ratio
- Consistent staff workdays
**Curriculum**
- practice writing more
- fine motor skills and strengthening muscles
- fundraisers to help raise funds for the school
- eliminate attachment theory
- nature in schools

**Early Learning Accessibility**
- problem solving skills through play
- social emotional, developmental, and feelings focus
- change KSEP to 30-60 days versus 10 days
- more bilingual education/language skills
- appropriate age expectations

**Supports**
- implement universal preschool
- summer boot camp for children that have not attended preschool
- developmentally appropriate after school care
- increased special needs diagnosis
- single parent support
- employer supported infant centers to assist new parents with transition

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**2019 ECE & Kinder Exchange Ideas**

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