



# road to the early achievement and development of youth

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.



## 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

kindergarten and preschool teachers knowing developmental stages, preschool standards, and kindergarten standards

teach mind body medicine to the little ones

blog/some way to connect with preschool teachers about student info

research retired teachers to see if we can make connections

online app

Social emotional KIMOCHI toy

film model ECE and TK/K classrooms and create a library of videos on a private group

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

photo scrapbook showcasing a child in preschool to share with kindergarten teachers

ECE partners create "picture buddies" with local schools

### Off-Site Student Exchange / Events

Exploratorium trip

physical education with diverse grades of students

gardening

field trips with different ages and grades of kids

nature walks

school carnival day

## Data

### DRDP & Assessment Data Sharing

DRDP in preschool to be shared with kindergarten teachers

preschool assessments given to kindergarten teachers

revisit assessment process to make more aligned

### KSEP

KSEP results by domain to preschool and kindergarten teachers

# 2019 ECE & Kinder Exchange Ideas

## Parent Engagement

### Involvement in Readiness

parent, preschool and kindergarten teacher meeting

educating parents on ECE and other program options

encourage parents to visit kindergarten campus for transitioning

educating parents on how they can prepare their child for kindergarten at home

kindergarten teacher visits preschool parents prior to starting and vice versa

"here is what your child needs to know for kindergarten" to parents

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

mailers to families about our programs – preschools/ TK/ kindergarten

### Involvement in School

creating more opportunities for parents to interact with their child in a school setting

### Tools for Parents

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

### Staffing

smaller TK ratios

free TK in a mixed delivery system including private schools

create a certificate/credential program for birth to eight years

require that TK be a separate class with small adult to student ratio

consistent staff workdays

NAEYC accreditation

# 2019 ECE & Kinder Exchange Ideas

## Systems

### Curriculum

- practice writing more
- problem solving skills through play
- fine motor skills and strengthening muscles
- social emotional, developmental and feelings focus
- fundraisers to help raise funds for the school
- change KSEP to 30-60 days versus 10 days
- eliminate attachment theory
- more bilingual education/language skills
- nature in schools
- appropriate age expectations

### Early Learning Accessibility

- implement universal preschool
- summer boot camp for children that have not attended preschool
- developmentally appropriate after school care

### Supports

- increased special needs diagnosis
- single parent support
- employer supported infant centers to assist new parents with transition