

Branch ISD programs and initiatives to meet the Governor's Challenge

Doing now:

Parent education

- ASAP-PIE grant and AmeriCorps grant
 - Active caseload of 400 children at any point in time using Parents as Teachers parenting and child development curriculum
 - Parent group meetings in every town in the county on at least a monthly basis...topics revolve around parenting and child development
 - Child playgroups in every town in the county on at least a monthly basis...model appropriate play and playing to learn techniques involving other children
 - Monthly newsletters to parents with parenting tips—two different newsletters
 - Wonder Years newsletters sent to parents regularly
 - R.E.A.D.Y. kits distributed to every parent that enrolls in the program
- Head Start, MSRP and Even Start grants all have parent education components
- Direct work with the county preschools and childcare programs (public, private) for parenting education materials and support
- Direct work with the county pregnant teen program with Parents as Teacher curriculum and all ASAP-PIE components
- Early On, Special education early cognitive developmentally delayed program integrate with all of the above

Reading to children

- See all of the above
- Literacy and pre-literacy skills emphasized in Parents as Teachers home visits, playgroups and parent group meetings
- Partner with literacy council for adult and child reading times at county libraries
- Partners in Print programs at every elementary school in the county

Future efforts (in addition to those above)

Parent education

- ASAP-PIE funding ends—reduce workers by 75%--but will expand the parent group meetings and playgroups to promote “group home visits” in lieu of the one-on-one home visiting efforts
- Attempt to reach out to more preschools and childcare programs to incorporate the Parents as Teachers techniques and curriculum on a group basis
- Expand services through our Even Start grant implementation

Reading to children

- Continue all in progress
- Solicit ‘reading buddies’ as surrogate parents for childcare programs
- Solicit partnerships with local retailers for incentive programs that acknowledge parent reading times
- Promote age-appropriate reading experiences—young children cannot ‘be read to’ for 30-minute periods
- Solicit faith-based partners