



Roundtable (2/28/19) Table Notes Summary

This Roundtable session included more than 125 teachers, students, parents, community leaders and business members who came together to learn about the landscape of early learning in Collier County, and explore how it connects to and impacts K-12 education, and the success of our community.

Then each table had conversations addressing the following questions and here are the summaries:

Key take-aways:

1. **What struck you about the presentation?** (most common in bold)

Overall

- **The need for translating resources, being culturally sensitive**
- The scope of the problem is big, there is a need to prioritize
- Even “pockets of excellence” areas could use support, not just the “hot spot” areas of needs

Access

- **Lack of opportunities/providers for children birth through 5 years old**
- Not all parents have technology accessibility
- Waitlists at early childhood centers

Parent Engagement/Resources

- **Find ways to expand parent leadership/advocacy**
- Parents can be trained to complete the Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ), being proactive to addressing development, reaching milestones
- Parent Resource Centers with the help of the schools

Business/Employer

- **The idea of getting employers involved- it’s an employee benefit to help families to get retention**
- Having family education in the workplace would be helpful for parents

Healthcare

- **The need to connect with pediatricians**
- Healthcare is important- screening, mental health resources

2. **How does what you learned make you think about your own work, or your own role?** (most common in bold)

Opportunities

- **Going to where the parents are**
- **Providing navigation tools to families in their path to help kindergarten readiness, expansion of toolkit resources, provide referrals resources that can help**
- **Identify the needs of families and providing educational opportunities to strengthen the resiliency**



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Opportunities (continued)

- **Centers being more aware of the programs and resources that are available**
- **Engage healthcare providers to support school readiness**
- Improving transportation availability in areas that are not walkable
- Employers caring about their employees and want them to be committed to their work
- Engaging high school students in summer internships with a focus on preschool to help the community
- Registration for school- having a better understanding of the process and encouraging families to register early
- Learn and support students in high school that are struggling and help them achieve their goals to graduate
- Start the instructional pipeline earlier
- Strengthen advocacy efforts- speak up and connect the dots for those in need
- Shift thinking of childcare/daycare to early learning programs

Challenges

- **Culture sensitivity- understanding the culture and building trust**
- **Identifying ALL opportunities/resources available in the county- increase awareness of mental health services**
- **Developing a more supportive system within businesses to educate their employees**
- **Getting parents to the resources**
- Parents not having knowledge on what is developmentally appropriate
- Huge geography, focus on a pilot to start somewhere
- Inconsistent trainings for members of the community and referral systems
- Students aren't aware of the needs in the community- focus on volunteering and informal mentoring

3. What do you think is possible for us to accomplish as a community?

A majority (more than half) of the tables mentioned:

- Increase volunteer efforts- a lot more can be accomplished
- Improved communication/advertising of the resources available, accessing libraries, television, health clinics, birth centers, faith-based organizations
- Collaboration and strengthening of resources already developed
- Professional development of community members and employees (through employers)

Several tables mentioned:

- Working with youth programs to bridge gap to connecting with parents
- Remove transportation barriers
- Develop incentives for things that parents will value to participate
- Provide award recognition to employers that are family friendly
- Provide training for more certified teachers, creating more qualified teachers = more kids in quality care