Kaleidoscope Play & Learn:
Engaging Families & Communities in
Children's School Readiness

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Infant and Early Childhood Conference
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Learning Objectives

1. Increase awareness and knowledge of the prevalence of children birth-5 years old not enrolled in formal early learning programs or licensed child care.

2. Become familiar with Kaleidoscope Play & Learn, a program that engages families in their children's healthy development and early learning.

3. Increase knowledge of relationship-based connections created through Kaleidoscope Play & Learn that can assist in linking families to early intervention, mental health, and other supports and resources critical to children's healthy development and school-readiness.

Introductions

Please share your:

• Name,
• Organization,
• Connection to KPL, and
• Why it’s important for YOU to be here today!
Who took care of you when your parents were at work, school or unavailable?

Family, Friend, and Neighbor care is a new name for the most ancient and widely practiced form of child care in history.

It refers to the network of relatives, close friends, and neighbors who are involved with parents in the care and early education of young children.

Many people have vivid memories of being cared for on a regular basis by grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Used by families that are rural and urban, and across all income levels and racial and ethnic groups, family, friend and neighbor care offers a remarkable opportunity to develop a shared vision for family friendly policies that support early education.

Betty Emarita
Development and Training Resources, MN

Why did your family choose this type of care for you?
Amazing Facts About FFN Care

- It is the most widely used form of child care for children birth – 2 years
- Higher prevalence also among:
  - Families of color, immigrant & refugee families, and families with low income immigrant/refugee families
  - Families with children with special needs

How Caregivers View Themselves

- FFN care is not viewed as a "choice" but as the normal way to raise children.
- FFN do not usually consider themselves "child care providers" or "caregivers" - grandma is grandma and auntie is auntie.
- They are most often caring for children to support a family member or friend – not as a business.

Why We Support Caregivers

ALL children ready for school and life

- Early childhood experiences impact brain development.
- Many caregivers don't have access to the latest information about child development, early learning and school readiness.
- To help caregivers understand how the time they spend with young children can strongly affect each child's growth and development.
- Knowledge of child development and healthy social networks are protective factors against child abuse and neglect.
- Parents and caregivers can work together on behalf of the child.
Kaleidoscope Play & Learn Video

Grounded in Research & Practice

Guidelines and Quality & Fidelity Assurance Practices

Frequent and regular outcomes evaluation, process evaluation and a pilot study

Widely-recognized existing research in child development, family and community engagement, family support, group theory, adult learning, and strengths-based approaches
Theory of Change

Kaleidoscope Play & Learn provides Family, Friend and Neighbor caregivers (and parents) with information, resources, support and connections
so that
Caregivers can provide high quality child care and development opportunities
so that
All children are in safe, nurturing environments receiving high quality care and are prepared to succeed in school and life.

A Week in the Life of a Young Child

A Typical Group

Meets weekly for 90 minutes or more and includes:

- Arrival
- Child-directed play time
- Clean-up
- Group Activity
- Clean-up
- Goodbye

Photo: Bailey-Gatzert Elementary School, Seattle
Throughout the Group Time

- Planned, intentional caregiver learning
- Intentional efforts to help caregivers get to know each other
- Intentional opportunities for caregiver leadership

Groups Meet

Anywhere people pay, play, pray, work, live….

Groups are Free and Drop-in
Key Messages to Caregivers

• You play an important role in children's development, early learning and school-readiness.
• Children learn through play, relationships, and interaction.
• You already know a lot about raising children – you don’t need a degree to have a positive impact.
• You have what it takes -- children don’t need expensive toys or equipment to play and learn.
• Everyday activities are full of “teachable moments.”

Current KPL Groups & Affiliates

As of 2017 data

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<th></th>
<th>Washington State</th>
<th>US (outside WA)</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Affiliates</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>67</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current Groups</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>+ 50</td>
<td>+ 147</td>
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<tr>
<td>Families Served (in 2017)</td>
<td>6,160</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>+ 6,160</td>
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Demographic Information

2017 Caregiver Demographic Data

• 63% of participants in Washington State identified as people of color
• 51% predominantly speak a language other than English at home
• 50% are low-income
• 24% were FFN caregivers
2017 Year-End Caregiver Survey Feedback

- 90% feel more supported as a parent or caregiver in their community
- 85% encourage the child in their care to keep trying even when it's hard
- 81% talk more with their child about numbers, shapes and sizes
- 80% talk more often with their child about his/her feelings

Bring Kaleidoscope Play & Learn to Your Community

Affiliation Package includes:
- Training, including the 2-day training for 2 facilitators in Seattle, WA and quarterly special topic webinars
- Kaleidoscope Play & Learn Planning Tool Kit and Handbook®
- Kaleidoscope Play & Learn Caregiver Learning Handbook and Lesson Guides®
- Participation in outcomes evaluation
- Consultation on all aspects of program planning, outreach, facilitation, and evaluation

Presenter Contact Information

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