

Lexington 4 Early Childhood Center
Annual School Summary Report to Parents 2013-14
Goals for 2014-2015

Purpose

To prepare a learning environment that nurtures the whole child while building a partnership with families and the community.

The ECC: A TransformSC School

The ECC was chosen as an innovative pilot site for TransformSC, an initiative of New Carolina, focusing on early childhood readiness for first grade. This organization of business leaders is partnering with educators in selected schools across South Carolina who are striving to ensure that students transition successfully from preschool, elementary, middle, and high school to graduate and be college, career and citizenship ready. The faculty and staff of the ECC are proud to represent the district in this initiative.

PALS

Promoting: Achievement, Learning, and Success

- Offered once per month as a way to build community with families and school, grow learning of curriculum and parenting, and provide quality time for families to spend with their children. At each session parents are given a book to add to their home library.
- Community Outreach and PALS was offered at various times during the school year.

Montessori Curriculum

- 24 teachers are trained or are currently being trained in the Montessori Method.
- Montessori is a hands-on approach to individualized learning in a prepared environment where the teacher facilitates and scaffolds individual needs.
- Students in 5K have the choice to stay with their Montessori teacher for 3 three years, thus providing continuity in learning and the opportunity to forge strong relationships._

Creative Curriculum

5K students are given the option to be in a kindergarten class utilizing the Creative Curriculum method. Students work together in small and large groups and in centers.

Literacy Coach

Students and teachers interact with literacy coach in all areas relating to English Language Arts. This coach shares and models 'best practices' with teachers and students. Both curriculum choices have a strong focus on literacy.

School Improvement Council

This group helps determine the strengths and weaknesses for the ECC and develops strategies to meet new challenges. As an important link to the community, this committee strives to connect families with community services through a Community Outreach Fair, speakers that offer parenting tips, and opportunities for children and parents to learn together.

Professional Learning Communities

Faculty and Staff at the ECC meet in study groups and collaborative planning groups in our quest to increase our knowledge of how young children learn. We take a scholarly approach to our learning in order to increase student achievement. Our focus this school year has been increasing our knowledge of oral language development.

School Priorities for 2014-2015

- Continue to strengthen Home-School communication through additional Parent Survey, newsletters, school website, phone calls, and use of the internet, and PALS.
- Continue to grow our mentoring program for our students needing extra support.
- Continue to enhance our outdoor opportunities (gardens, trees, composting, and exercise).
- Increase through scholarly professional study our understanding of oral language development and how to maximize opportunities for growth in our students.
- Continue to participate in TransformSC as we seek to prepare our environment for the whole child with the goal of preparing them for learning at ever higher levels.

School Improvement Council

Emily Allen, Katherine Bessinger, Allison Brisco, Donna Brown, Crystal Dinkins, Sandy Drawdy, Bradley Frick, Taylor Jeffcoat, Gina Peterson, Olivia Speares, Holly Miller, Lillian Atkins