

Early Childhood Education

What's already in place?

- Smart Start's various programs
- More at Four
- Dept of Social Services subsidies for child care
- Head Start (and Pender High Head Start to which teen parents can apply through regular process, program not necessarily set up to support them to stay in school)
- Beddingfield High School's early childhood center for teen parents (this idea can be a 'model' that can keep teen parents in high school:
- <http://www.wilson.k12.nc.us/education/components/album/default.php?sectiondetailid=41027&grid=281#albumAnchor>
- UNC Early Childhood Education teacher preparation programs
- Leverage of funds (needs to become more collaborative)
- Early brain research supporting everything to follow (Shonkoff's research)

What is needed?

- Keep the language of prevention in the forefront of our thinking and work!
- More school leadership engagement with early education
- More early education teacher education preparation and professional development (more emphasis on child development and early education; neuroscience and impact on early education teaching practice **and** children's learning)
- Follow up on programs such as Reading Recovery
- Early elementary classrooms designed to reflect best practice/needs of children, i.e. child-choice, learning centers, etc.
- Address teaching strategies for young children
- Address 'corporal punishment' legislation-get it out!
- All ECE classrooms emphasizing social emotional skills that permeate the environment and support children's ability to be autonomous: classroom management skills should be based on child development, positive child guidance that supports children's autonomy
- **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION IS THE FOUNDATION**
- **Continue and expand funding for early childhood education (high quality, comprehensive services for all young children and families)**

How do we accomplish this work together?

- Implement *The Magnet Marble Theory of Collaboration* (ask Dana, this is an idea to be stolen!!!)
- All early childhood and primary school age people should be talking together (leverage funding, transitions)
- Work on transitions, i.e. 'Ready Schools'
- Communicate frequently with legislatures!