



Members of the Social Emotional Learning Professional Learning Community (PLC) act out a skit at our Community of Practice to illustrate the importance of “good-bye” rituals and routines when younger children are dropped off at school.

## Birth-to-College Collaborative Ends the School Year On a High Note

On May 29<sup>th</sup>, the 65+ members of the BTC held our end-of-year Community of Practice. Each of the six professional learning communities (PLCs) had a chance to share their learning, suggestions, and questions with each other in the form of presentations on: Language & Literacy, Math, Assessments, Transitions, Social Emotional Learning and Family & Social Support. The presentations ranged from skits, to a music video, the launch of a website, songs, and other multi-media approaches. The directors of Educare, NKO and Donoghue reflected on the presentations, and congratulated the PLC's for their creativity, hard work, and insights on what they learned and the implications for our practices.

The PLCs' findings and continued wonderings included challenges presented by trying to measure the outcome of interventions to be piloted and what would be the mechanism for bringing about and sustaining aligned practices in the short and long run. We will continue our work next year once school begins.

**Enjoy the summer sun!**

Questions? Comments? Please email  
[erothkopf@ounceofprevention.org](mailto:erothkopf@ounceofprevention.org).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

June 10<sup>th</sup> PLC Surveys Due  
June 14<sup>th</sup> UCCS last day of school

### Photo Flashback: May 16, 2013

### UCCS Parent Social for Incoming Kindergarten Families

Five of the 11 Educare children who are registered to start at UCCS next school year had a chance to visit Donoghue and meet future classmates and staff with their families. They played games, won raffle prizes and had a great time.



### Birth-to-College Collaborative Vision and Mission

We will build a model of public education for children and their families that begins at birth and creates success in school, college and life.

Our mission is to align and create instructional approaches and academic and social supports to accelerate student learning, while honoring and building upon the strengths of the families we serve.





From left to right, Asha Bonaparte (Literacy Coach, Donoghue) is a co-leader, Glenda Perkins (Infant-Toddler Teacher, Educare), Brooke Fordice (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher, Donoghue) and Tracey White (Preschool Teacher, Educare) is the other co-leader.



## Spotlight: Transitions Professional Learning Community (PLC)

This month we want to highlight the work of the Transitions PLC. This PLC is comprised of teachers, social work and family engagement staff from Educare, NKO and Donoghue.

The Transitions PLC set as their goal for this school year, “to look at best practices that will facilitate socio-emotional and academic development and positive transitions for the children and families that we serve.” The rationale for their goal is that, “we need to be able to ensure that teachers, schools, and parents foster to the fullest the developmental potential of all children as they transition from year to year. Currently, many children experience a fade and parents experience shock from the lack of a seamless transition.”

Over the past school year, the Transitions PLC researched and gathered information, shared and discussed personal experiences, and then researched findings. They suggest that parents be given pre- and post-surveys to better inform the development of kindergarten shadow days, among other activities. The group proposes planning events with input from parents, teachers and family support staff. The Transition PLC’s hope is that with feedback from each of these groups, these events could expose parents and children to kindergarten and elementary school in a way that would facilitate a better experience for everyone involved.

Tracey White, one of the co-leaders and a preschool teacher at Educare, says of her work on the Transitions PLC, “It has been a lot of hard work, and challenging because there is no one way or process for transitions. We are building a model from the ground up.”



Alnita Buchanan, left, is Educare’s Preschool Family Support Supervisor, and the facilitator of the Transitions PLC. Glenda, center, and Asha, right, look on.

Evernote is the shared digital space where members of the collaborative share articles, pictures, artifacts from our work, record our meetings, and document just about everything we do. We think the following recent additions to the BTC notebook in Evernote would be of interest to PLC members:

- **An article from Catalyst Chicago on “Early Childhood Teachers Adapt to Common Core.”**
- **A blog post entitled, “Early Learning: A Helpful Head Start.”**

**Did you know?** Evernote can link notes. Just right click on one of your notes and choose “Copy Note Link.” Then, paste that link into another note for quick access later.

Still need help with Evernote? Email [erothkopf@ounceofprevention.org](mailto:erothkopf@ounceofprevention.org).



## EVERNOTE TIPS