



Deborah Jewell-Sherman, center, flanked by the leadership of Educare: Brenda Eiland-Williford, left, and Anita Harvey-Dixon, right.

Birth-to-College Collaborative Uplifted By our Work with Deborah Jewell-Sherman

Deborah Jewell-Sherman, Senior Lecturer for Education and Co-Director, Urban Superintendents Program at the Harvard Graduate School of Education spent two days with members of the Birth-to-College (BTC) Collaborative last week. She addressed our Community of Practice (COP), sharing insights from her experience in successfully reforming the public schools of Richmond, VA. At the root of so much of Jewell-Sherman's message to the teachers, family engagement and leadership staff of Educare and UCCS was an urgency to do the inner work of self-awareness and reflection, and developing the adaptive skills necessary to succeed in improving outcomes for our students and families.

Final Community of Practice of 2012-13 School Year: Presentations and Sharing the Learning of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)

On May 29th, the BTC Collaborative will gather for our final COP of the 2012-13 school, from 2 to 4pm at Educare. PLCs will make presentations to their colleagues about their hard work and learning together. Please contact Teyona James-Harris for further questions and support at tjames-harris@uei-schools.org.

Questions? Comments? Please email erothkopf@ounceofprevention.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 16th

- UCCS Parent Social, 5:30pm @ Donoghue
- Family Night, 5:30pm @ Donoghue

May 18th Health and Wellness Garden Party for Families, 11am @ Educare

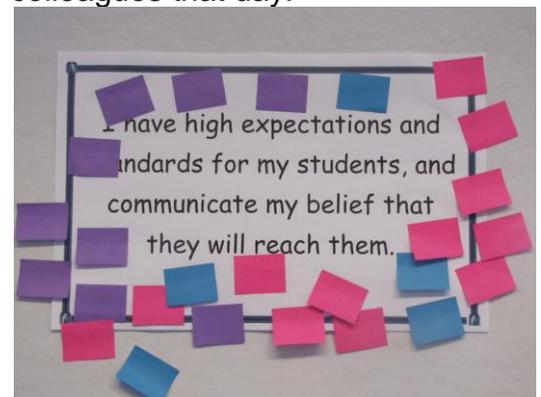
May 29th Community of Practice, 2:00pm @ Educare

May 30th PLC Surveys Released

Photo Flashback: May 12, 2011

Birth-to-College Introduced

It has been two years since Educare, NKO and Donoghue staff came together to begin working on this project in our first Community of Practice. Below is a quote by educator Professor Kafele that clearly resonated with many colleagues that day.



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.



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From left to right, Lo Patrick, Social Worker (Donoghue). Danielle James, Infant-Toddler Master Teacher (Educare), Dawn Hicks, Director of Family and Community Engagement (NKO), and Danielle Johnson, Infant-Toddler Teacher (Educare). Lo and Danielle Johnson are the PLC co-leaders, and Danielle James and Dawn serve as co-facilitators.



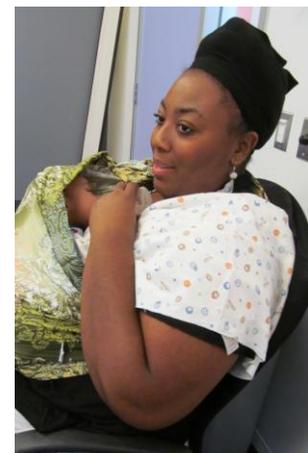
Spotlight: Social Emotional Learning PLC

This month we want to highlight the work of the Social-Emotional Learning Professional Learning Community (PLC). This PLC is comprised of teachers, social work and family engagement staff from Educare, NKO and Donoghue.

The goal of the Social-Emotional Learning PLC for this school year has been to create a catalog of resources for teachers and families to support social-emotional skills development for children birth through 3rd grade. The rationale for their goal is that teachers and families feel better able to support social-emotional skill development when they have an array of child-specific strategies.

Over the past school year, the Social Emotional Learning PLC viewed and discussed videos teaching the same social-emotional skill from toddler through grade three. Some of the connections they made through their inquiry were that there were many commonalities in this area across these ages and grades, that teaching social emotional skills is an ongoing process that can be balanced with academic learning and must also be shared with parents and families. Some of their next steps are to try out some of the suggestions and feedback in classes, refining what works, and incorporate social-emotional learning skills in family nights.

Danielle James, pictured right, is one of the group's facilitators and an Infant-Toddler Master Teacher at Educare. She says of her learning with her PLC colleagues: "It is very rewarding to share that the foundations of social-emotional development that we support in early childhood development must continue to be built upon as our students go on to UCCS. They need to be nurtured in a supportive environment; this doesn't end in preschool. Just as there are development shifts in a toddler, these continue as the kids grow and mature."



EVERNOTE TIPS

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:

- **"A Framework for Planning, Implementing and Evaluating PreK-3rd Grade Approaches"** by Kristie Kauerz and Julia Coffman
- **A *New York Times* article on the "The Power of Talking to Your Baby"**

Did you know? If you want to share a file with a colleague and it exceeds the size limit of an email attachment, put it in a notebook you both share on Evernote... problem solved!

Still need help with Evernote? Email erothkopf@ounceofprevention.org.