



Three happy preschoolers in the first cohort of 12 Educare children to benefit from coordinated admissions to UCCS. They will have the option to enroll at Donoghue or NKO for kindergarten for the fall of 2013. From left to right: Caleb Jackson, Taylor Hamilton-Jones, and Caleb's twin brother, Christian Jackson.

### Continuing Professional Development Units (CPDUs) for Professional Learning Community (PLC) Work!

Staff members of the Birth-to-College (BTC) Collaborative spent quite a lot of time preparing for and conducting the work of their PLCs over the last year. In addition to the pleasure of learning with their colleagues, these teachers, social workers and administrative staff can also earn CPDUs for this work.

CPDUs are credits that professionals need as they re-certify through the Illinois State Board of Education. The administration of Educare and UCCS are collaborating to take care of this for eligible staff. We will be in touch with those staff to make this happen.

The BTC collaborative is very excited about this development. We value our PLCs as a means to bringing our schools closer, and as a form of staff authored professional development. Now this professional development will be recognized in a way that is very meaningful and helpful to our staff who need CPDUs.

Questions? Comments? Please email [erothkopf@ounceofprevention.org](mailto:erothkopf@ounceofprevention.org) or [mrose@uei-schools.org](mailto:mrose@uei-schools.org).

### UPCOMING EVENTS

November 15<sup>th</sup> Family Night, 5:30pm @ Donoghue\*  
 November 27<sup>th</sup> PLC Leader and Facilitator Training, 4-6pm @ NKO  
 Fridays, Free Beginner Yoga for Staff and Parents, 3-4:30pm @ Educare

\*Want to go to Family Night? RSVP to [latonyamaxwell@uei-schools.org](mailto:latonyamaxwell@uei-schools.org).

### Photo Flashback: STEP Booster Training at Educare October 12, 2012

Teyona James-Harris, BTC Professional Learning Community (PLC) Coordinator, provided a "booster" training on the STEP Literacy Assessment to 16 Educare teachers. This will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> year that Educare will be using the STEP in preschool classrooms.



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

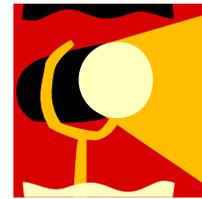
We will build a model of public education for children and their families that begins at birth and creates success in school, college and life.

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.





**Math PLC Co-Leaders Rena Johnson, left, a preschool teacher at Educare and LeAnita Randolph, a 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher at Donoghue.**



## Spotlight: Foundational Mathematics Professional Learning Community (PLC)

This month we would like to highlight the work of the 12 members of the Math PLC. This PLC is comprised of teachers, family engagement, and coaching staff that work with infants and toddlers, preschoolers and elementary school students up to third grade from Educare and Donoghue. Last year the Math PLC brought in artifacts of their work with students and families to learn about each other's practice. They also heard from Educare's Infant-Toddler Curriculum Specialist, Barbara Abel, about what early math learning looks like for very small children.

The goal they have set out for themselves over the coming year is as follows:

*Standard 1 of the Common Core Standards for Mathematical Practice states that we should develop our children so that they can make sense of problems and persevere in solving them. We will study how we can enable children from birth to grade three to meet this standard as it relates to algebraic thinking and reasoning. We will apply our new knowledge to how we teach students and support families. We will continue to use 'gallery walks' to share and analyze samples of mathematical tasks that show how our students make sense of algebraic problems and persist in solving them.*

To this end, the PLC decided to first videotape a student engaged in math problem solving, or in the case of toddlers, persist in accomplishing a task in their play, watch the videos together, and share observations with each other. Family support staff in the Math PLC will work with those students' parents to strengthen their problem-solving approaches. Math PLC co-leader Rena Johnson noted that throughout the day she builds time in to allow her students to persist in accomplishing tasks independently. For example, when a child can independently zip up their own coat they feel a sense of competence and confidence that often carries over into other, more academic aspects of their day.



## 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 Evernote would be of interest to PLC members:

- **CASEL's latest guide to preschool and K-5 social emotional learning programs**
- **Harvard Family Research Project brief on best practices in transitions to kindergarten**

**Did you know** that Evernote is searchable by key word? Looking for a document you know is there but not sure where? Search for words you think or know are in the documents and... voila!

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