



BTC staff Glenda Perkins is an Infant-Toddler Teacher at Educare. Glenda has eight brand new cute friends in her classroom this year. 😊

## News from the Back-to-School Community of Practice (COP) September 19, 2012

More than 70 staff from Educare, NKO and Donoghue came together for our BTC Community of Practice, including teaching, family engagement, special needs, research and administrative staff working with babies, toddlers, preschool children and students up to 3rd grade. We welcomed new members into the partnership by reiterating the mission, vision and history of our work together. We also shared future collaboration opportunities, and had a chance to work within our professional learning communities (PLCs).

One staff member commented that she valued “the diverse set of opinions coming from professionals who work with varying age groups (a new experience for me).” Another participant shared that her thinking was challenged with a “constant reminder to keep language of discussions accessible to all, i.e. not strictly “teacher talk.”

We look forward to our mid-year COP, scheduled for January 30, 2013, when we will have a chance to hear from Sharon Ritchie, Senior Scientist at Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute, about her work with PLCs in North Carolina. Stay tuned for more details to come!

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

October 16<sup>th</sup> PLC Leader and Facilitator Training, 4-6pm @ Educare

October 18<sup>th</sup> Family Night, 6pm @ Donoghue\*

October 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> Book Fair @ 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: Family Literacy at Donoghue September 20, 2012

Educare staff visited a prekindergarten classroom for Family Literacy Night at Donoghue.



One of the stations where Donoghue parents are encouraged to read with their children and ask them to predict what comes next in the story.

### 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.

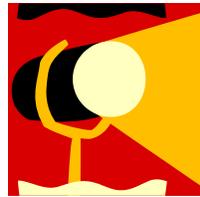
Our mission is to align and create instructional approaches and academic and social supports to accelerate student learning, while honoring and building upon the strengths of the families we serve.





Co-Leader Julia Paloma is in the foreground with little Sheldon on her lap. Julia is an Infant-Toddler Master Teacher at Educare. She says of her work on this PLC: "I am so interested to keep examining how the evolutions of our different settings (elementary school vs. early education) influence our own ideas about what family and social support should look like."

decision is that they need to do this before they can engage parents productively, to develop support for the parenting best practices, and in order to determine what their priorities as educators should be.



## Spotlight: Family and Social Support Professional Learning Community (PLC)

This month we want to highlight the work of the nine members of the Family and Social Support PLC. This PLC is comprised of teachers, family engagement, and special needs staff that work with infants and toddlers, preschoolers and elementary school students up to third grade from Educare, NKO and Donoghue.

The PLC met last year to learn more about each other's practices as they relate to family engagement across the three schools, and attended parent or family events at each other's schools. PLC members were struck in particular by how NKO family engagement staff were just as interested in learning *from* their parents during the "mini-lesson" they observed as they were in sharing information and insights *with* them. They agreed that the work of the PLC aligns with their day-to-day responsibilities in that they all view parents of as vital partners to make a real and lasting impact in the lives of their students.

The PLC goal for the coming year is to examine research to find parenting best practices that link to student success indicators. The rationale for this



From left to right: Twanna Bradford, Infant-Toddler teacher at Educare, Erica Emmendorfer, Co-Leader and 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher at NKO and an NKO student teacher.



## 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:

- **The HighScope Perry Preschool Study that documents the lifetime effects of high quality preschool.**
- **Excerpt from the upcoming case study documenting the launch of our PLCs.**

**Did you know** that Evernote is helpful beyond your work with the Birth-to-College Collaborative? Set up a notebook and share it with a group of your friends, family or colleagues! Include: articles, photos, recipes, or links.

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