

*NICE Community School  
District  
Ishpeming, MI*

*Westwood High School  
Aspen Ridge K-8  
1137 students*

*ECIC Grant Recipient*  
*2010-11*  
*NICE Staff*

*Michael Haynes, Grant Author, superintendent*

*Scott Hall, Grant Activities Coordinator, Assistant Principal*

*Donna Ballweber, Director, Child and Family Resource Center*

Our Aim:  
To Develop and Strengthen Partnerships



# School Agency Partnerships

---

1. Alger Marquette Community Action Board (AMCAB)
2. Marquette Alger Regional Educational Service Agency (MARESA)
3. NICE Community School District, Ishpeming, MI

# Who was involved?

---

- Head Start classrooms
- Privately run pre-schools
- Childcare centers
- Home child care providers
- Early Childhood specialists at ISD
- Public school Pre-K to Kindergarten
- NICE staff from Child and Family Resource Center

# School and Community Partners

---

- Parents
- Families
- Extended Family Caregivers
- Staff at Aspen Ridge School

# Some of our goals:

---

- To develop better alignment and continuity among and between early learning settings and elementary schools.
- To provide high quality early learning experiences that are supportive of children, and to make these accessible to families.

# To develop better alignment and continuity among and between early learning settings and elementary schools.....

---

Our school district partnered with AMCAB to host a two part training in the High Scope Curriculum.

Participants:

- AMCAB Staff (Head Start teachers)
- Area preschool teachers
- Area childcare staff
- PreK to Kindergarten Public school teachers (NICE and surrounding districts)
- NICE Child and Family Resource Center Staff
- Early Childhood staff from ISD

# To develop better alignment and continuity among and between early learning settings and elementary schools.....

---

AMCAB hosted a training, “Conscious Discipline in the Classroom”. Also invited to the training were:

- Area preschool teachers
- Area childcare staff
- PreK to Kindergarten Public school teachers (NICE and surrounding districts)
- NICE Child and Family Resource Center Staff
- Early Childhood staff from ISD

# To develop better alignment and continuity among and between early learning settings and elementary schools....

---

MARESA, our local ISD, conducted a survey of the Early Childhood Standards of Quality for Pre-Kindergarten.

Participants:

- Area preschool teachers
- Area childcare staff
- Pre-K to Kindergarten Public school teachers (NICE and surrounding districts)
- NICE Child and Family Resource Center Staff

# Our aim in building these partnerships:

---

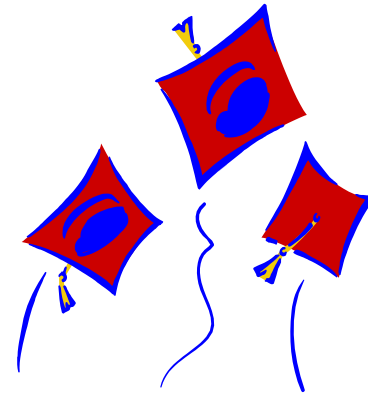
- Improve communication and understanding between local preschool and public school staff.
- Develop clearer understandings of expectations for school readiness amongst all stakeholders.
- Work together to improve the foundational school experiences for children so.....

...kids have a better initial school experience once they start Kindergarten....



---

...and in turn have a better chance  
for later success in school as future  
learners.



## Back to our other goal:

---

To provide high quality early learning experiences that are supportive of children, and to make these accessible to families.

# Child and Family Resource Center

## Donna Ballweber, Director



# Child and Family Resource Center

---

- Monthly workshops for parents
- Weekly playgroups for parents and their pre-school aged children
- Resources and directories to local agencies that provide support and assistance
- Parent-to-parent networking
- Access to technology

# Literacy Playgroup



# Monthly playgroup



# Westwood High School students from Child Development Class



# Technology

---

- To provide interactive technologies that engage students in early learning opportunities.
- To make technologies available to area center-based licensed pre-school programs.
- To give opportunities for families to access this technology as well as internet access through the Child and Family Resource Center
- To provide training, technical support, and time for public school staff to integrate technology pieces into curriculum

# SMART Table



# Little Tykes Young Explorer



# Leapfrog Leapster and Tag Learning Systems



# Benefits from our Child and Family Resource partnerships

---

- Establishing and maintaining relationships
- Creating a network of relationships amongst families
- Supporting families of current and future public school students
- Providing a link to area agencies that provide family support and resources
- Allowing families to access technology
- Providing families with early literacy programming

# Questions?

---

# Our NICE vision realized.

