



December 2013

Topic of the Month

**What was the topic of your most successful Educational Partners Meeting?**

Our most successful Partner's Meeting was when pre-k teachers from the school system met with childcare directors for a luncheon. Speakers from QRIS, MSR&R, Ole Miss Literacy Foundation and Excel By 5 all presented information pertaining to *Early Childhood Services*. Everyone learned so much and told us later how much they enjoyed it. Many of our centers as a result became involved with QRIS, which of course helped us meet our criteria. –**Linda Glaze for Kathy Sukanek, Lafayette County coalition**

At our "*Creating Common Core Activities*" session for childcare directors, we were pleased to see that each of them were taking notes and asking questions. The participants were given ready- to- use activities that aligned with the current standards. The directors signed a letter of support that said they wanted to partner with other early childhood initiatives to create a strong support network for our children.–**Cynthia M. Walker, Gulfport coalition**

We have 2 RNs on our Health and Safety Committee who provided child/infant *CPR and First Aid training* for our childcare employees. This was done after their work hours for no fee. It was great to provide this needed certification. It was very appreciated by the childcare employees. We plan to do this again! –**Donnis Harris, Central Clarke County coalition**

An education consultant met with our childcare providers, Head Start, pre-k, and kindergarten teachers for our "*FAMILIES, SCHOOLS, & COMMUNITY: BUILDING STRONG STUDENTS*" session. The group was challenged to move from parental involvement to parental engagement. That is ...having a relationship with families. On the same night, parents were actively engaged in activities that focused on preparing children for school success in order to ensure graduation on time. We provided childcare through the CSD child development class.–**Patsy Clerk, Cleveland coalition**

We held a session on *Common Core* and then released an RFP for an independent grant for curriculum resources. However, we feel that providing networking time to our participants at each session is also very valuable, as it allows them to bond and form relationships. Additionally, we always set aside time to update our providers on the latest Excel By 5 news, and inform them of ways they can be involved with our events. We also provide food and door prizes –**Cathy Wilson, Hancock County coalition**

In Biloxi, we polled our childcare providers and found that there were three favorite topics: *Read! Move! Learn!*, *Simple Transitions*, and *Bullying*. The providers found these sessions to be particularly useful. It should be noted that these three topics shared the same presenter. In addition to the content of each workshop, participants agreed that it was the presenter who made these sessions especially worthwhile. Our providers were also very grateful for the *CPR certification* class that was offered. –**Robin Carey for Susan Hunt, Biloxi coalition**

Both our *Social Emotional Training* and our *Common Core Training* were well attended and the evaluations were very good for both trainers. If I had to say which was better it would be the social emotional training because I feel that is so important for young children since they are establishing a very important "sense of self" that will carry them through not only academics but their general life skills as well. –**Bitsy Miller for Dan Kibodeaux, Hattiesburg coalition**

For more details on any information listed above, contact the certification manager listed or your sites coordinator.

