



October, 2015

Topic of the Month

How do you describe your community's Excel By 5 efforts to others?

Cleveland Excel By 5 is a vital portion of a whole effort to reach out to our community and help it understand the importance and value of early childhood involvement by parents and early childhood education by our schools in better preparing our children for the challenges and opportunities they will face in our world. We bring together a patchwork of organizations and services, making them available in a consolidated location so the community has a better opportunity to learn about and to access these organizations and services. – **Sam Washington, Cleveland Coalition**

In Pascagoula we take care of the children in the entire community. It is our goal to bring various community groups together see that our children are healthy, happy and ready to go to kindergarten! Visit our Resource Library which is full of developmentally appropriate materials for children birth to five years of age, and join us at our community wide events held regularly throughout the year. –**Connie Jo Williams, Pascagoula Coalition**

The LOU Excel By 5 Coalition strives to ensure that all children enter kindergarten prepared to succeed in school and in life. The coalition brings together a diverse group of organizations and individuals, including parents, educators, and community leaders, to promote positive development, nurturing and safe environments for all children, and a countywide awareness of the importance of the early years. –**Chelsea Herbert, Lafayette County/Oxford/University Coalition**

Biloxi Excel By 5 is a community initiative. Our number one goal is to provide the necessary resources for a successful year as a kindergartener. Childcare providers are aware of the benefits of partnering with Biloxi Excel By 5, which include free training and networking opportunities as well as scheduled visits from our Center staff to their location to engage their children in art projects. We offer a Family Resource Center with 5 interactive rooms that is open 3 days a week. Parents bring their children to the Center and work with them. There is a Toy Lending Library where adults check out materials to strengthen specific skills. There is no charge to visit the Center or check out materials. We have designated days to celebrate special occasions throughout the year, providing children with verbal interaction, age appropriate activities, and seasonal fun! We offer Parent Academies and educational workshops to adults at no charge and provide food and babysitting. We have free community events throughout the year to provide interactive and instructional age appropriate activities for children birth to 5 years of age. –**Susan Hunt, Biloxi Coalition**