

Thompson's Discovery for Birth-to-Eight Success Action Plan

Thompson's Community Goal: *To Discover Resources to Build Academic, Social, Emotional Supports for Thompson's Littlest Citizens (R. B.A.S.E.S. 4 T.L.C)*

- to expand the supply of high quality early childhood education
- to increase the quality of the existing early childhood education
- to build strong connections between early care and elementary education
- X to improve student's social, emotional and academic performance**

Objective: The Thompson Discovery Collaborative will work to achieve significant gains in reducing the readiness gap among Thompson children

Strategy #1: To implement a community outreach program to insure at least 50% of Thompson's children are developmentally screened at the earliest appropriate age

				Expected Outcomes	
Type of Change	Strategies	Responsible Parties	Resources Needed	Short-term Outcomes 2005	Long-term Outcomes 2007
X Process <input type="checkbox"/> Practice <input type="checkbox"/> Policy	Early care and education community conversation for Thompson Parents/Early Care Providers by local health care provider on healthy development of the young child	Dale St. Lawrence, Thompson parent and pediatrician, Discovery collaborative	Forum space, facilitation, refreshments, advertising, support from collaborative	Forum held reaching 20-30 local parents and early educators	Increase in parental knowledge to identify and support developmentally appropriate growth in young children
<input type="checkbox"/> Process X Practice <input type="checkbox"/> Policy	Develop a " New Parent Toolkit " to distribute to Thompson parents of children birth to 5 through local maternity wards, obstetricians and pediatricians CURRENT PRIORITY OF 3	Tanya Rzezniekiewicz, TEEG Early Education Coordinator, Discovery Collaborative	Staff time to develop kit, kit contents, printing and distribution costs	Fully developed toolkit is distributed to three local health care providers	Fully develop a distribution network of area prenatal care and increase parents awareness of local resources for children, birth-five

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Strategy #1 (pg.2): To implement a community outreach program to insure at least 50% of Thompson's children are developmentally screened at the earliest appropriate age

Type of Change	Strategies	Responsible Parties	Resources Needed	Expected Outcomes	
				Short-term Outcomes 2005	Long-term Outcomes 2007
<input type="checkbox"/> Process <input type="checkbox"/> Practice <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy COMPLETED	Create local awareness of programs and services available for Connecticut's approximately 270,000 children under age 6 by hosting a CT Commission on Children forum to generate support for its' Early Childhood Partners statewide campaign. Spring '05	CT Commission on Children, Discovery Collaborative, Thompson's Preschool Partnership, Thompson's School Readiness Council, Thompson's People for Quality Education (TPQE), Thompson parents	Advertising, facilitation by CT Commission on Children, local appropriate meeting space	To create local awareness of statewide programs and services available	To actively participate in a statewide partnership for healthy children
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice <input type="checkbox"/> Process <input type="checkbox"/> Practice <input type="checkbox"/> Policy COMPLETED	To develop a local data base identifying Thompson children birth to age five for purposes of tracking Discovery/SRC contact with parents regarding early childhood health, academic, social opportunities available. '05 and ongoing	Discovery Collaborative, School Readiness Council, Thompson's Preschool Partnership, TEEG, Thompson Board of Education	Public records, manpower to collect, setup data and family contact plan	To create the database for use in 05/06 recruitment of school readiness preschool slots	To cultivate positive relationships with local parents for ongoing partnership for healthy and successful children

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Strategy #1 (pg.3): To implement a community outreach program to insure at least 50% of Thompson's children are developmentally screened at the earliest appropriate age

Expected Outcomes					
Type of Change	Strategies	Responsible Parties	Resources Needed	Short-term Outcomes 2005	Long-term Outcomes 2007
X Process <input type="checkbox"/> Practice <input type="checkbox"/> Policy COMPLETED	To create sustainable relationships and effective communication venues between private early care providers and the Thompson School System '05 and ongoing	Discovery Collaborative School Readiness Council, Early Childhood educators/daycares, and parents	Willingness of all to partner and share resources, effective mechanism to communicate on regular basis	To create local awareness of the Thompson early care agenda	By sharing resources Thompson can increase the number of Thompson children who have been appropriately assessed for developmental progress

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Strategy #2: Increase Thompson parent's participation in Parent Education and Advocacy opportunities/programs by 100%

Expected Outcomes					
Type of Change	Strategies	Responsible Parties	Resources Needed	Short-term Outcomes 2005	Long-term Outcomes 2007
X Process <input type="checkbox"/> Practice <input type="checkbox"/> Policy ONGOING	Develop a parent mentoring program for People Empowering People (PEP) '04 graduates.	Discovery Collaborative, ARCHES, PEP graduates	Advertising, staff/collaborative's time to identify and train local mentors	50% of PEP graduates will be paired with mentor	PEP graduates will have the support they need to remain civically engaged
X Process <input type="checkbox"/> Practice <input type="checkbox"/> Policy ONGOING	Continue to support growth and capacity of local grassroots advocacy and network group: ARCHES for families of children with learning disabilities '05 and ongoing	Discovery Collaborative, Susanne Witkowski, Director of ARCHES, parents	Financial resources for advertising, speaker fees, program costs, technical assistance, refreshments, supplies, stipend	Advocacy skills and support for Thompson parents so they can effectively navigate the special education process	To significantly increase the number of Thompson children who receive early screenings and developmentally appropriate services

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Strategy #2 (pg.2): Increase Thompson parent's participation in Parent Education and Advocacy opportunities/programs by 100%

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Type of Change	Strategies	Responsible Parties	Resources Needed	Short-term Outcomes 2005	Long-term Outcomes 2007
X Process <input type="checkbox"/> Practice <input type="checkbox"/> Policy STOPPED	Continue to improve newly created Discovery web site: www.Thompsonfamilyresource.org	Blair Cole, Discovery Collaborative	Webmaster fees to train local parent to maintain/update site	To provide an electronic parent-friendly resource of local and statewide resources/family activities	To increase communication among the Thompson early childhood community and families
<input type="checkbox"/> Process <input type="checkbox"/> Practice X Policy	Enlist parent representation and participation with CT Parent Power, a coalition of parents impacting state policy	Discovery Collaborative, TEEG	Mileage and parent volunteers	To develop a constituent base of parents to join the collective voice on state policy	To impact state policy for early childhood success and universal preschool
X Process <input type="checkbox"/> Practice <input type="checkbox"/> Policy IN PROCESS	Develop a traveling parent lending resource library accessible to all Thompson residents	Kim Flynn, Children's Town Librarian, Susanne W., ARCHES Director	Cost of publications and mobile push cart, volunteers to circulate cart	Increase parental awareness regarding parenting practices, learning disabilities, available resources	Expand knowledge base to increase child advocacy

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<input type="checkbox"/> Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice <input type="checkbox"/> Policy STOPPED	To produce <i>"The Power of Community Caring"</i> documentary of Thompson's Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) approach of resident-driven civic involvement to create positive and sustainable community change '05-06	Trudy Carr, Thompson Together, Discovery, TEEG, ARCHES, PEP Parents	Staff and volunteer time, supplies	To offer a 4-year history of how Thompson has and continues to address its Discovery goal: <i>To develop Resources to Build Academic, Social, Emotional Supports for Thompson's Littlest Citizens</i>	To offer an 'ABCD' model to other communities of how Thompson developed and sustained a strong citizen-driven partnership between school, town, residents and faith-based organizations
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Process <input type="checkbox"/> Practice <input type="checkbox"/> Policy ONGOING	To increase awareness of Thompson's Discovery work among members of Thompson Boards of Education, Finance and Selectmen	PEP parent graduates, Discovery Steering Committee	Volunteer support, civic capacity building tools	Parents gain advocacy skills that can be used to increase civic and educational participation	Thompson's Boards of Education, Finance, Selectman continue to invest in quality early childhood efforts on behalf of all Thompson children

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Strategy #3: To increase the availability of medical, dental, and mental health services to Thompson children by Jan., 2006

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<input type="checkbox"/> Process <input type="checkbox"/> Practice <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy	Establish benchmarks of the current health status of children in Thompson	Barbara Lesniewski, Nurse, Debbie Spinelli, Athletic Director, Thompson Public School	Staff support to assimilate data	Document to reflect current status of children to be used as a benchmark for ongoing Discovery work	Program development that addresses identified health needs of Thompson children
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Process <input type="checkbox"/> Practice <input type="checkbox"/> Policy	<p>Increase Parent Involvement. Host bi-monthly coffee hour for parents and their children at Three Rows Village (low income subsidized housing). Provide opportunities for parents and children to engage in playgroup activities and to receive products/services/info on health, nutrition, preschool, literacy, etc.</p> <p>CURRENT PRIORITY OF 3</p>	Doreen Bentley, Discovery project mgr, Tanya R., TEEG Early Education Coordinator	Use of Three Rows Community Room, refreshments, incentives Staff and collaborative support	To establish a relationship with low income parents and their children to break down existing socio-economic barriers and perceptions	All parents in Thompson have an opportunity to feel valued and participate in the civic and educational opportunities in the community.

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Strategy #4: To develop skills and cultural/socialization opportunities for young children through enrichment activities in the school and the community

				Expected Outcomes	
Type of Change	Strategies	Responsible Parties	Resources Needed	Short-term Outcomes 2005	Long-term Outcomes 2007
<input type="checkbox"/> Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice <input type="checkbox"/> Policy	Develop a mentor program by providing an intergenerational connection of Thompson seniors with young children.	Discovery Collaborative, Seniors, Mary R. Fisher Elem. School, TEEG Thompson Recreational Dept.	Space, refreshments, volunteer's time, staff support	To create a support system that offers positive role modeling for young children by sharing values, skills and knowledge of seniors	Thompson seniors will obtain an understanding of the challenges in the modern classroom; Thompson's children will develop a sense of connectedness and respect for elders in the community
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Process <input type="checkbox"/> Practice <input type="checkbox"/> Policy	Develop an "Early Literacy Matters" awareness campaign by offering a "Raising Readers" program for parents and their children '05-'06	L.Thompson, Reading Specialist, elementary school K. Flynn, Children's Librarian, B.Mulligan, Parent, B. Quercia, E. Jones K/PreK teachers, Tanya R., TEEG Early Education Coordinator	Program supplies, training, space, staff/volunteer support	To introduce parents to the importance of reading with their child by making it fun, enjoyable and beneficial to both	Children entering preschool will demonstrate an increase in behaviors that involve literacy. Entering kindergarten children will display a decrease in their disparity in literacy skills

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Strategy #4 (page 2): **To develop skills and cultural/socialization opportunities for young children through enrichment activities in the school and the community**

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				Short-term Outcomes 2005	Long-term Outcomes 2007
<input type="checkbox"/> Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Practice <input type="checkbox"/> Policy ONGOING	Develop extracurricular programs to increase Thompson children's exposure to the cultural arts	Carol Rossetti, Erica Ladin, Thompson Elem. School Music/Art Teachers, Anne Alves, Parent	Program funding, staff and volunteer time	To implement a community program with an emphasis on the arts for Thompson's children	Increased exposure to and appreciation of cultural opportunities by Thompson children