



EVERY SINGLE CHILD IN BRISTOL IS HEALTHY AND READY TO LEARN BY AGE FIVE AND ACHIEVES DEVELOPMENTAL AND SCHOOL SUCCESS BY AGE NINE.



EVERY CHILD



IN EACH MEETING BECA (BRISTOL EARLY CHILDHOOD ALLIANCE) MEMBERS DISCUSS DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION -

ARE WE SUPPORTING ALL OF OUR FAMILIES DIVERSE NEEDS TO ENSURE THAT EVERY CHILD IS INCLUDED IN OUR WORK?

This practice led us to deeper discussion on special education and the needs of our families.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

WE HELD A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION AROUND THE FOLLOWING:

WHAT CAN BRISTOL DO BETTER TO SUPPORT FAMILIES WITH RESOURCES AND SERVICES FOR CHILDREN (0-9) WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.

- WHAT GAPS ARE FAMILIES FACING?
- WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE?

Gaps in services -

- professionals disappear and child waits for new professional.
- School ends - no help during summer - shorten summer vacation.
- Badly qualified professionals

Fixes:

Summer camps pick up where schools left off?
Problems - most camps overseen by older kids, etc.

- special games and events for special needs kids (mini special olympics event involving police)
- Special needs storytimes at the library - sensory driven
- Children's Museums/Hair Salons and other public places to offer special times to participate in programs/services.
- Special needs students in public schools - need communicate with special needs teachers.

Parent Advocacy Ages 3-5

- No doesn't always mean no! Try again!
- Prioritize hiring bilingual in key positions.
- SEPTA

Language Gaps

- Educational resources for parents
- Overall resource guides easier access for families
- SEPTA
- Technology for virtual services (that still exist)

Access to more inclusive playground and public spaces

Transition from Birth -3

Parent education beyond IEP/504

Parent Advocates

Active SEPTA - welcome parents with younger children, out of district

Special Needs Awareness Day/Info

Gaps: education, support, places to meet

Translation Services

Problem Identified: more children in B-3

Sensory friendly events

Better advertisement of BEHS supplies and Caring Closet at BPRYCS

Resource Guide in multiple languages (special needs based)

Pool based program.

BECA/SR Subcommittee on Special Needs

Parent support group with childcare available (FRC)

Parent Square based group online support parent groups

Guest speakers (CT Family Support Group)

Contact Principals or teachers to discover needs in school

Transportation to events

DISCOVERY PHASE

We formally created "Special Education Hub"; a subcommittee of our Outreach Committee.

- The committee had a presentation from our Park and Rec's Dept
 - We have excellent inclusive parks
- The committee decided to hold an event to have further input on what is missing in Bristol to support our families. A sensory Friendly movie has been scheduled for November where Part II of our community conversation will take place.