



**KENTUCKY PRESCHOOL
PROGRAM REVIEW REPORT 2011-2012
Estill County
March 15, 2012**

Met 23 out of 23 possible indicators

Met	Program Structure
✓	1. Eligibility
✓	2. Special Education
✓	3. Program Operation
✓	4. Staffing/Teaching Credentials
N/A	5. Contracting (N/A)
✓	6. Attendance
✓	7. Professional Development
✓	8. Head Start Collaboration

Met	Environment
✓	9. Ratio and Staffing
✓	10. Developmentally Appropriate Practices
✓	11. Routines
✓	12. Equipment and Materials
✓	13. Space
✓	14. Funding
✓	15. Individual Needs of Children

Met	Curriculum and Assessment
✓	16. Assessment of Children
✓	17. Annual Evaluation of Preschool Program
✓	18. Student Information
✓	19. Screening

Met	Health, Safety and Nutrition
✓	20. Meals
✓	21. Safety Policies
✓	22. Transportation N/A
✓	23. Recruitment

Met	Families and Communities
✓	24. Parent/Family Involvement
N/A	25. Wrap Around Services (N/A)

Based on review by KDE Site Visit Team

Estill County Consolidated Review Site Visit Report

Purpose

The Consolidated Monitoring site visit process is intended to coordinate Kentucky Department of Education interagency monitoring into a more concise timeframe and thereby reduce the burden on school districts and provide improved service and support to districts in the regulatory monitoring process.

This preschool program report divides the on-site visit into five sections: (1) program structure; (2) environment; (3) curriculum and assessment; (4) health, safety and nutrition; and (5) families and communities. Each section has a summary followed by strengths, findings and recommendations for the district. Strengths are examples of program quality. Findings are items that do not meet regulatory standards and recommendations are suggestions for program improvement reflecting best practice. **Upon receipt of this report, the district may submit questions and edits to Annie Rooney French (Annie.Rooney-French@education.ky.gov) by August 17, 2012.**

Discussion

The Consolidated Monitoring site visit team visited Estill County on March 15, 2012. The preschool monitoring team consisted of one preschool consultant, Laura Wathen, KDE. The preschool component of consolidated site visit included a review of documents at central office, 40-45 minute classroom observations in 2 preschool classrooms as well as interviews with teachers, assistants and service providers. A post site visit e-mail on March 30, 2012, shared the highlights of this report after the examination of the documentation, completion of the site visits and interviews and compilation of this report.

Program Structure

Program Structure – Summary

Estill County Preschool Program is blended with Head Start, maintaining full utilization and compliance with Federal Head Start Program. The district hosts a single Early Childhood Site at South Irvine Pre-K providing 7 full day sessions lead by 7 lead teachers, 3 of which hold current IECE certification. Estill County's Preschool Program shares a building with the Kindergarten Program creating a unique early childhood environment allowing space to serve all 4 year-olds, including those on a tuition basis, and supporting an effective transition into Primary.

Program Structure – Strengths, Findings and Recommendations

Strengths:

- **704 KAR 3:410 Section 2 Eligibility (#1).** As evidenced in a review of HS Full Utilization Agreement, Interagency and Transition Agreements, District written RTI plan, IEP's, Infinite Campus Reports, Class Rolls, District Policy Handbooks, screening registrations, professional development records, parent Handbooks, flyers and other documentation as well as central office interview, Estill County has in place an effective, broad-reaching child find system and individualized RTI/KSI system which incorporates partnerships through families, teachers and collaborations with various community partners to serve the children of Estill County.
- **707 KAR 1:300 Section 1 Special Education (#2).** The district has an effective transition process in place for helping children transition from First Steps into the preschool program. As evidenced by central office interview with the preschool coordinator, along with a review of relevant data collected by KDE, Estill County has maintained 100% compliance with transition from First Steps services to State Funded Preschool for 3 consecutive years.
- **704 KAR 3:410 Section 7 Professional Development (#7).** Professional development activities are strongly related to the nature and needs of young children and their families. As evidenced by review of sign-in sheets and registrations and professional development plans, the coordinator adapts professional development topics to the specific and unique needs of preschool children and their families.

Findings:

- None

Recommendations:

- None

Environment

Environment – Summary

As evidenced by central office interview, MUNIS reports, other relevant data collected by KDE, and classroom observations, Estill County's Preschool Program uses all appropriate expenditures to provide well-maintained facilities and learning experiences where safety guidelines are met in regards to equipment, materials, evacuation procedures and other health measures. Classrooms are arranged in appropriate, well maintained learning areas and schedules reflect a balance of large and small group activities as well as sufficient free-choice and gross motor play time. Adaptations and accommodation are evident in support of children with special needs both indoors and out and interactions are classroom climate are designed to support the overall development of all children in the program. Concerns exist, however the lack of plans to move preschool children currently in portable units to brick and mortar classroom as well as classroom observations which revealed the presence of dittos.

Environment – Strengths, Findings and Recommendation

Strengths:

- **704 KAR 3:410 Section 6 Developmentally Appropriate Practice (#10).** As evidenced by on-site classroom observations, Estill County's preschool program offers a developmentally appropriate, individually responsive learning environment for children from various socio-economic and cultural backgrounds as well as children across various developmental levels including those with special needs.

Findings:

- None

Recommendations:

- **704 KAR 3:410 Section 6 Space (#13).** Estill County operates two preschool classrooms in temporary/relocatable units exposing very young children who may have multiple disabilities to additional transition during times of emergency. Temporary units should be utilized with older students and include a plan for future construction. It is recommended that Estill County explore plans for future construction to remove the necessity for relocatable units and arrange an older age-set of students be housed in these units in the meantime.
- **704 KAR 3:410 Section 6 Developmentally Appropriate Practice (#10).** Test sheets, workbooks and ditto sheets must not be used because they are not developmentally appropriate for preschool children. In one classroom multiple ditto sheets were observed

on teacher materials shelves adjacent to small group areas in the classroom. Multiple copies of each page were prepared and stored in clips. The source was an Internet-based resource known as First School and the worksheets contained the header “Preschool Printable Activities”. One sample sheet was removed and discussed with the lead teacher. The sheet required students to print and write numbers, as well color small circles representing the correct number of gumballs in a picture of a jar. The lead teacher said photocopies are made of the pictures of the jar, and the circles are enlarged to cut out for children to do other things with. Multiple stacks of other ditto/worksheets were observed. No completed dittos were observed in cubbies, on the walls or in student folders; however, the presence of such a large number of dittos raises a concern that worksheets are incorporated into classroom activities.

Curriculum and Assessment

Curriculum and Assessment – Summary

Folder reviews, teacher interviews, work samples and central office interviews revealed that developmentally appropriate, continuous assessment is utilized in order to plan group and individualized curriculum experiences for the children enrolled in Estill County's Preschool Program. Assessment includes both formal and informal collection methods as well as information provided by families. Classroom observations revealed some assessment methods that appear to be test sheets and recommendations will be made accordingly. Assessment occurs at regular intervals as well as through daily anecdotal notes and work samples and is used to plan for the group as well for individual children both with and without IEPs. Folder reviews revealed health and developmental screenings were completed according to regulation. Review of Parent Handbooks confirmed a process in place for all parents to have opportunity to anonymously assess the program each year.

Curriculum and Assessment – Strengths, Findings and Recommendation

Strengths:

- n/a

Findings:

- None

Recommendations:

- **704 KAR 3:410 Section 6 Assessment of Children (#16).** It is recommended that Estill County review the assessment information within the supplemental curricula utilized in the district (*Handwriting Without Tears*) and work with teachers to avoid implementation of inappropriate assessment strategies that are not in compliance with Kentucky preschool administrative regulations. In one classroom, work sheets (letter recognition) were observed in children's files and/or on teacher's desks. These involved the identification of upper and lower case letters as developmentally appropriate practice provides that young children be provided with play-based, functional opportunities to evidence their skills, more naturalistic observation would allow teachers to assess the identification of letters where alphabetic sheets administered for this purpose become test sheets for assessment.

Health and Safety

Health and Safety – Summary

All children receive breakfast and lunch in accordance with their session schedule. Lesson Plan reviews as well as classroom observations reveal that health, nutrition and safety information is incorporated in a developmentally appropriate fashion across the academic year as well as shared with families. Emergency plans are in place and drilled regularly. All busses transporting preschool children have monitors who are trained in developmentally appropriate guidance strategies as reviewed within the Bus Monitor Handbook. All educational records are locked and secured.

Health and Safety – Strengths, Findings and Recommendation

Strengths:

- n/a

Findings:

- None

Recommendations:

- None

Families and Community

Families and Community – Summary

Central Office review indicates that Head Start provides Family Advocates as well as numerous Parent Education opportunities. Parent Interest Surveys allow families to have input on monthly parent trainings and other support group agendas. Review of classroom calendars, district, site and classroom newsletters demonstrate numerous Parent/Family Nights, field trips, volunteer opportunities, as well as parent/family education and support opportunities such as Grandparent-Guardian support groups, Parent Guide trainings, Family Activities such as ‘Dads-n-donuts’ and ‘Moms-n-muffins’ to encourage parents to visit their child’s school environment in addition to regular home visits. These opportunities represent collaboration with the district High School, Health Department, Public Library, local food bank, County Extension Agency, and various adult education and family support groups.

Families and Community – Strengths, Findings and Recommendation

Strengths:

- **704 KAR 3:410 Section 8, Families (#24).** Estill County hosts a ‘K-Camp’ every summer where parents or guardians can bring children for daily activities in the Kindergarten setting, learn more about what to expect in Kindergarten and get to know the teachers.
- **704 KAR 3:410 Section 8, Families (#24).** Estill County’s Preschool Coordinator accompanies the teacher on at least one home visit each year for each child in order to make personal contact with the family as often as possible.

Findings:

- None

Recommendations:

- None

Kentucky Department of Education
Preschool Consolidated Monitoring
District: Estill County
Date: March 15, 2012

Action

The Estill County Preschool Program met 23 of 23 possible indicators. The district received 6 strengths, 0 findings, and 3 recommendations.

Please use the P2R document on the File Maker Pro site to complete [Action Plans](#) for all findings (if applicable). Actions for recommendations are not required. Each of the action plans should have a date for the estimated completion time. The district is requested to have the action plans completed for the item in the P2R document by August 31, 2012.