



**KENTUCKY PRESCHOOL
 PROGRAM REVIEW REPORT 2011-2012
 Lincoln County
 March 13 & 14, 2012**

Met 22 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

Lincoln 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 Lincoln County on March 13 and 14, 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 6 preschool sites as well as interviews with teachers, assistants and service providers. A post site visit e-mail on March 26, 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

The Lincoln County preschool program is blended with Head Start, maintaining full utilization and compliance with Federal Head Start Program. The district includes sites Crab Orchard, Stanford, Waynesburg, Hustonville and McKinney, providing 12 full day sessions led by 12 teachers, three of which hold IECE certification. Lincoln County's preschool program reports to the Lincoln County Preschool Interagency Planning Council, a collaborative initiative providing district wide support, policy clarification and resource identification for Preschool staff and families in order to support school readiness across Lincoln County.

Program Structure – Strength, Findings and Recommendations

Strengths:

- **704 KAR 3:410, Eligibility (#1,) and 707 KAR 3:100, Special Education (#2).** The district has an effective child find system in place and the referral process (KSI/RTI) assures that children are given an opportunity for intervention prior to evaluation. As evidenced in a review of reports to the Lincoln County Preschool Interagency Planning Council, screening registrations, professional development records, parent group handbooks, flyers and other documentation, Lincoln County has in place an effective, broad-reaching Child Find system and individualized RtI/KSI system which incorporates partnerships through Teacher Assistance Teams and collaborations with various community partners as well as families.
- **707 KAR 1:300, 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 review with the preschool coordinator, along with a review of relevant data collected by KDE, Lincoln County achieved 100% compliance with transition from First Steps services to State Funded Preschool.
- **704 KAR 3:410, Professional Development (#7).** Activities are 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

Across the district, Lincoln 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. Classroom interactions and climate are designed to support the overall development of all children in the program. Concerns exist, however, as classroom observations revealed the use of test sheets and dittos.

Environment – Strengths, Findings and Recommendations

Strengths:

- **704KAR 3:410 Section 6(9-14, 16-21), Developmentally Appropriate Practice (#10).** As evidenced by on-site classroom observations, Lincoln 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:

- **704 KAR 3:410 Section 6, Individual Needs of Children (#15a).** Test sheets, workbooks and ditto sheets must not be used as they are not developmentally appropriate for preschool children. In 4 of 6 classrooms, there were completed ditto sheets observed hanging on the classroom wall, in cubbies to be taken home, as well as in children’s files and/or on teacher’s desks. These involved letters of the week identification, writing upper and lower case letters, writing numerals and copying shapes. In two cases, children’s folders revealed identical numeral writing sheets completed at regular date intervals at which points these administered sheets become test sheets for assessment.

Recommendations:

- None

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 Lincoln 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 appear to include test sheets. Assessment occurs at regular intervals through daily anecdotal notes and work samples. Assessment results are used to plan group and individual learning activities for all children. Folder reviews revealed health and developmental screenings were completed according to regulation. Review of parent handbooks confirmed a process is in place for all parents to have opportunity to anonymously assess the program each year. Lincoln County provides family-friendly opportunities to evaluate the preschool program.

Curriculum and Assessment – Curriculum and Assessment

Strengths:

- n/a

Findings:

- None

Recommendations:

- **704 KAR 3:410 Section 6, Assessment (#16).** It is recommended that Lincoln County review the assessment information within the supplemental curricula utilized in the district (*Handwriting Without Tears* and *Breakthrough to Literacy*) and work with teachers to avoid implementation of inappropriate assessment strategies that are not in compliance with Kentucky's public preschool regulations. In 4 of 6 classrooms, there were completed ditto sheets observed hanging on the classroom wall, in cubbies to be sent home as well as in children's files and/or on teacher's desks. These involved letters of the week identification, writing upper and lower case letters, writing numerals and copying shapes. In two cases, children's folders revealed identical numeral writing sheets completed at regular date intervals at which points these administered sheets 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 Recommendations

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, RIF Family Reading Activities in addition to regular home visits and lunch & learn classes at the county extension office. These opportunities represent collaboration with the district high school, health department, county extension agency, and various adult education and family support groups.

Families and Community – Summary

Strengths:

- n/a

Findings:

- None

Recommendations:

- None

Action

The Lincoln County preschool program met 22 of 23 possible indicators. The district received 4 strengths, 1 finding, and 1 recommendation.

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.