



**The TEACHER CENTER of Broome County
Teacher Study Group Grant Award
Summer 2006
FINAL REPORT
DOCUMENT PROCESSES AND OUTCOMES**

STUDY GROUP TOPIC: Research and Development: Kindergarten to First Grade; Creating a Child-Focused Transition Program.

List of group members:

Cortney Sands
Patti Fiato
Connie Buchinsky
Virginia Ousterout
Erin Hull

The final report must be word-processed and submitted both in print and on disk using this form. Include information under each of the following headings.

The Teacher Center of Broome County is requesting that two members of each study group funded as of July 2006 share the information gained through their study with other consortium members by presenting a workshop during the 2006 - 2007 school year. Please indicate on your final report who we should contact to make arrangements for your presentation.

Name	School/District
Cortney Sands	Binghamton
Patti Fiato	Binghamton

Describe the initial goal of the group noting any adjustments that had to be made as time passed.

1. To create a survey of transition practices currently being used within the district, at the kindergarten and first grade level.
2. To research, discuss and develop a transition program, including in school and at home activities, which will aid in the continuity of curriculum, parent-teacher communication and a child focused transition practices.
3. To research and create a variety of parent guides and learning activities that will aid in the transitions from K-1.
4. To perform survey in October of k and 1 teachers and to use feedback when implementing the new transition program next June.

Describe the ACTION PLAN that the group followed.

1. We created an informal survey to be given to all the current K and 1 teachers within the district. By conducting this survey we hope to gain a better understanding of the current practices that the district is using to aid the K-first transition.

2. We researched available resources to help educate us on the benefits to a strong transition program and the benefits to both teacher/school and student/home that it provides. We then shared our findings with the group and discussed the importance of the issues at hand.

Describe how the action plan was implemented.

1. The information gained by the survey along with our research will give us a strong foundation to create and develop an appropriate transition program that will be implemented by the beginning of next school year.
2. Our group's findings will then be shared with the other K and 1 teachers, so that the necessary feedback will be taken into consideration.
3. We will also use the research, surveys and teacher feedback sessions and developed an at-home activities "care package" that will benefit the students and parents over the summer months. We also created a new transition program that we will use in our school in June of 2007.

Evaluation of the impact of the study group effort on teacher/student performance.

- How has this study group changed you as a teacher? Do you anticipate that any of your teaching practices will have changed?

This study group gave us an opportunity as professionals to collaborate and work towards a common goal. It also created a platform in which we could study, discuss and in turn learn from our colleagues about this very important topic. Throughout this process we reaffirmed the importance of thinking more child centered, especially about the anxieties that occur during grade transitions. As we developed a K-1 transition program we worked together as teachers with one common goal instead of two separate grades with different concerns. The benefits that this summer group has created will be seen next year after we have fully implemented this program. However, we all have come away with a different outlook on the last and first weeks of school, which will be shown in the upcoming school year.

- What evidence do you expect to see of student achievement improving as a result of your participating in this study group?

We hope that this transition program will create a more cohesive curriculum between Kindergarten and First grade. We also hope to see students that are more willing to participate and open to learning in the first weeks of school because of the decrease in anxiety. Since there will be less time needed for "getting to know you activities" an immediate start in academics will hope to be achieved.

- What evidence is there that the goals of the study group has/has not been met?

The initial goals of this group have been met. We created a survey to be administered to all K and First teachers in September. We also developed a week of transition activities for both students and parents to be held in June. We also collaborated on a at home K to 1 "Care Package" to be sent home with incoming First Graders over the summer months. We also hope

to make this program a district wide by taking into the considerations the information gained by the survey.

Comment on the value of the study group process? Did it work for you?

It worked great! We enjoyed getting together over the summer months to collaborate, research and share with other professional about very important educational issues.

How can we make this study group program better?

We would like to have been able to continue with this research and the study group throughout the upcoming school year.