



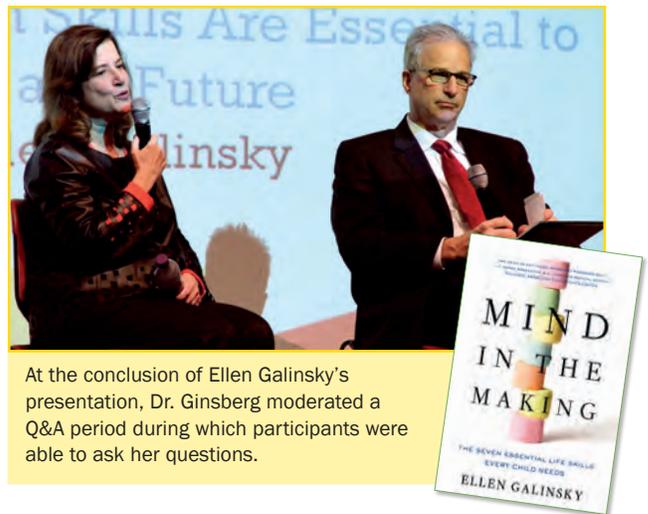
Fairfax Futures Hosts Community Event

Hunter Mill District Supervisor Catherine M. Hudgins; Fairfax County School Board Chairman Ilryong Moon; Ellen Galinsky; Dean of the George Mason University College of Education and Human Development Mark Ginsberg; Fairfax Futures Executive Director Dalissa Vargas.

Recently, members of the Fairfax community interested in early childhood education had the opportunity to attend a presentation sponsored by Fairfax Futures in partnership with Fairfax County's Office for Children and Fairfax County Public Schools. George Mason University hosted the lecture and Q&A session that featured Ellen Galinsky, author of "Mind in the Making." The topic of her discussion was the importance of fostering executive function skills in our youngest children.

Fairfax Futures Executive Director Dalissa Vargas welcomed members of the Fairfax County business and academic communities to this event, and speakers included Hunter Mill District Supervisor Catherine M. Hudgins, Fairfax County School Board Chairman Ilryong Moon, and Dean of the College of Education and Human Development at George Mason University, Mark Ginsberg, PhD.

This event was an opportunity for members of the Fairfax County community to gain insight and dialogue about the long term benefits of quality early childhood education for every child. The focus of Galinsky's talk was the critical need and methods used to connect early learning to lifelong skills adults use in the workforce. "Executive function skills are crucial building blocks for early



At the conclusion of Ellen Galinsky's presentation, Dr. Ginsberg moderated a Q&A period during which participants were able to ask her questions.



development of both cognitive and social capacities and their unusual connections are the basis for creativity," said Ellen Galinsky. These skills fuel children's capacity to learn and create the foundation for a dynamic future workforce.

Vargas said, "We are grateful to the members of the business and greater Fairfax community who participated in this event as we continue to highlight the crucial importance quality early childhood education is for all children in Fairfax County."

IFEL Instructors Present at NAEYC Conference



Marshann Snyder, Karen Quist and Brownyn Dean.

Institute for Early Learning Director Karen Quist, with instructors Bronwyn Dean and Marshann Snyder recently presented “Word Power: Increasing English Vocabulary through Early Learning Experiences” at The National Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference & Expo in Washington D.C. It is the largest early childhood education conference in the world, drawing tens of thousands of educators.

Word Power is a 16-hour course developed by IFEL in coordination with the federal Office of Head Start and Office of Child Care to improve vocabulary and conversational skills for family child care providers who are English language learners. Other course objectives include enhancing English vocabulary related to early care and education and increasing knowledge of

developmentally appropriate learning experiences that can be provided to children in their care.

Word Power is designed to mirror the way in which children learn their first language, through play experiences such as stories, songs, and games, and by repeating the names of familiar people, places and things. By implementing a unique adult learning approach, non-native English-speaking child care professionals learned vocabulary words and practiced emerging English language skills in the same way.

Quist said, “We are pleased by the interest in this course and delighted to share some insights from this successful program with others in the early care and education field.”

“EAT AND RUN” Activity Book



The Office for Children with the Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax, has developed a new “Eat and Run,” initiative to support child care professionals in implementing guidelines for healthier foods and activities for children. “Eat and Run,” is a book designed to help family child care providers bring good nutrition and physical activity into their daily programs. The book features 15 “Eat” and 15 “Run” activities. Some activities are a twist on familiar things; others may be entirely new to providers. All will contribute to children’s well-being.

This initiative will help family child care providers adapt to recent changes to Fairfax County’s Home Child Care Ordinance requiring them to follow the USDA guidelines for healthy eating and to provide space for active play inside and outside.

Workshops are ongoing for family child care providers who are currently participating the USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program.



“We are excited to have this opportunity to work with the Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax to encourage child care professionals to offer healthier foods and activities to children,” said CEPS Director Catherine Sauer.

Funding to develop “Eat and Run” was provided through a Centers for Disease Control Community Transformation Grant received by the Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax for the Live Healthy Fairfax initiative.



Holiday Helping Hands

OFC staff worked in partnership with other county agencies to bring cheer to families in need this holiday season. For the second year Cindy Gonzalez and Sumi Abrol in CEPS partnered with Facilities Maintenance staff to make sure that a family child care provider in need and her family received presents to brighten the holidays. Employees of ECCC and SACC registration and administration also sponsored families for the holidays, providing presents and food. Lucy Mastantuono in ECCC and Tasha McClain in SACC coordinated these efforts.

Fifteen families whose children attend Greater Mount Vernon Community Head Start/Early Head Start Program were the happy

recipients of a food drive conducted by the Northern Virginia Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. This is the second year the fraternity has provided families with Thanksgiving meals and other groceries to use throughout the holiday season.

Volunteers at the Penn Daw Fire and Rescue Station 11 helped several classes from Greater Mount Vernon Community Head Start pick the toy of their choice at their annual toy distribution, and later that week, firefighters from Mount Vernon Station 9 visited the program's holiday open house and made sure each child received a toy.



OFC Measures Results — RBA

Sure, you may have heard the term RBA, but have you wondered just what it means? RBA, or Results Based Accountability, is used to: determine whether people are “better off” as a result of receiving services; improve accountability for taxpayer dollars; and collectively strengthen programs and services.

Results Based Accountability goes beyond a measure of how much work was done, and how well to incorporate a measure of how the work improved the lives of those served. The RBA framework of conducting decision making, strategic planning, and program management with a focus on end results for customers provides the opportunity for continuous evaluation and improvement.

All Fairfax County human services agencies are using RBA as a way to monitor performance, and improve

customer results in six areas: Connected Individuals, Economic Self-Sufficiency, Healthy People, Positive Living or Older Adults and Individuals with Disabilities, Successful Children and Youth, and Sustainable Housing.

In all human services agencies, performance plans have been developed using the RBA approach, and measures from these plans have been compiled to monitor results. All divisions in OFC have completed the RBA process for 2013.

In the future, a human services report card will be developed which will provide clear data that measures the impact of work across the human services system on those served. The report card will enhance communications about results to staff, managers and decision makers throughout Fairfax

County as well as invested community partners. To read the performance plans or to learn more about RBA, visit the human services pages on FairfaxNet.

In coming issues of “Grapevine” we’ll be highlighting some key OFC RBAs.



IFEL Hosts Professional Development Day

On Saturday, November 16, more than 200 early childhood professionals gathered at the Fairfax County Government Center for the Institute for Early Learning's Annual Professional Development Day. This year's theme was Nurturing Children, Nurturing Ourselves.

IFEL Director Karen Quist explained, "Early childhood professionals have an important role in creating responsive and respectful relationships with children and their families. Reducing stress in their daily lives and creating a healthy work-life balance are key components to providing quality care."

General session presenters Linda Storm, Irene Faithful, and Lucy Gerland drew on their expertise related to infant massage, health and wellness, and balancing work-life strategies to provide valuable information about preventing, recognizing and alleviating stress.

Later, participants chose from four interactive breakout sessions. Lucy Gerland emphasized the importance of

good nutrition, time management, personal care and networking as methods to enhance the caregiver's life. IFEL instructor Maria Gallagher's session informed participants how proper food choices support children's healthy brain development.

Mark Gardner, a licensed clinical social worker, explored the major causes of stress in young children, factors that impact how they react to it, and strategies for helping them develop effective coping skills. Linda Storm's session emphasized the importance of Nurturing Caregiving for Infants and Toddlers in a child care or preschool program. Providers shared some of their nurturing techniques such as singing, playing games and offering special toys to redirect children from challenging behaviors.

Participants in each session seemed to benefit from the exchange of ideas. One participant, Maria Martinez, summed it up when she said, "Thank you to Fairfax County for putting together these programs for us to learn and take back the information to others."



Presenters Irene Faithful, Linda Storm, and Lucy Gerland.



Office for Children

This employee newsletter is published by the Office for Children, a division of the Fairfax County Dept. of Family Services. If you have any questions, contact Angela Morlu at 703-324-7528 or Nancy McDonough at 703-324-8042. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ofc.



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