

ECP Meeting
Monday May 15th 2017
Minutes

Topic: Updated Practices of English as a Second Language

Speaker: Sue Michalski, ESL Program Assistant

In Attendance: Sue Michalski, Annette Searfoss, Tammy Barnhart, Frank Thomas, Caitlin Madden, Noel Purdy, Heather Myers, Jenn Hawbecker, Carol McNamee

Staff: Cheri Kearney, Amy Hicks, Vanessa Bigler

Sue Michalski (shmichalski@iu12.org)

- Discussed history of Literacy Council, current location is on commerce street in Chambersburg, but will be in the new Coyle library (estimated Fall of 2017)

3 staff members and a group of volunteers run programs

- Tutors teach either one-on-one or in groups
- The program is available to anyone in Franklin County, from 17 Years old to 70 years of age
- There is no cost to program participates
- Since it is easier to stay in school rather than go through steps for GED program, staying in school is highly encouraged
- Life skills are taught in conjunction with the ESL program

Some items discussed were:

- Some families have a fear of losing their culture when learning English
- Not understanding instructions on medications or prescriptions
- Discerning valuable mail versus junk mail
- Promotions in Spanish are not always helpful if information about translator availability is not

included

There are many different cultural barriers and challenges when it comes to working with those that do not speak English as their first language. However there are many methods that increase effective communication.

- Speaking slowly, enunciating clearly (not loudly), avoiding slang are highly recommended.

If there is a need for services, individuals are encouraged to call or stop by in person to discuss their needs. Commitment to the program is the best way to success for those that utilize the services.

Resources listing will be attached to this email with suggestions and short and long term solutions.

Also attached will be information on:

- Keystone STARS Re-visioning Launch Webinars
- Early Childhood Investigations Webinar on trauma-sensitive learning practices

More information to follow on Early Childhood Discussions with Annette Searfoss, Executive Director of Head Start and Jennifer Hawbecker, Early Intervention Program Specialist.

Next Meeting will be on **Monday, June 19th** 2017 at 11am , Meeting topic is "Inroads with Autism".