



Counties in Area: Palo Alto and Kossuth Counties

Contact for Area:

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Vision and Mission:

Partners in Palo Alto/Kossuth (PAK) Empowerment Area believe that developmental opportunities for children ages birth to five plays a crucial role in establishing lifelong patterns. Children in this population group are ready to learn and develop the perceptual framework that will guide their lives. Along with the provision of basic needs such as food, shelter, and safety qualities such as feeling of family support, positive identity, social competency and a nurturing environment are essential for lifelong healthy development.

Community Plan Priorities:

- Secure and Nurturing Environments for children
- Children will be equipped with the skills needed to learn to be ready to take advantage of educational opportunities and learn to the best of their ability.
- Quality daycare will be accessible to all families
- Healthy children

Local Indicators (list):

- Improved prenatal care for pregnant women leading to healthier children.
- Expanded in-home visitation services leading to parents who are better able to:
 - Provide a secure and nurturing environment for children.
 - Select childcare environments for their children that are equally nurturing and secure.
- Improved education for parents and childcare providers leading to:
 - Caregivers who are more knowledgeable about early brain development.
 - Children who are better prepared to succeed in school.
- Increased number of childcare providers who have received child development education leading to a corresponding increase in the number of children cared for in nurturing childcare environments.
- Increased number of preschools that participate in quality improvement
- Increased number of children ages 3-5 that are able to access quality preschool

How we are collaborating to impact the priorities:

- Monthly Healthy Families meetings are held between Community Health Departments, KIDS staff, CARE Team, and AEA staff.
- Local childcare providers meet meeting monthly to share information, ideas, and experiences.
- Childcare providers have hosted AEA staff at their childcare facilities for story time and enrichment activities for the children, educational materials for the providers and follow-up to improve quality of care provided.
- The KIDS program continues to serve children age 1 -5, with no risk-based criteria for participation allowing the program to continue to reach more families and children.
- Parent educational classes called “Growing Together” have drawn many parents and children to a program which partners with local preschool teachers and uses local school classrooms. The program has been commended as a means to transition children more easily into the preschool environment, as well as connecting adults with informal support and parenting resources. These are held with the local school districts including local preschool teachers.
- Preschools are participating in quality trainings and are working with PAK to offer tuition assistance for preschool
- Enrichment activities for children and parents such as “Little Picassos”-painting day and Bubbles and Books in the Park take place with the support of RSVP volunteers, high school students and school administration. These provide developmentally appropriate activities for parents to do with children as well as connect parents with Empowerment programs and other community resources.

Identify services/programs funded by Community Empowerment:

Early Childhood Fund	Literacy promotion visits, Child care provider support groups, Child care consultant
School Ready Fund	Coordination services, literacy promotion visits, preschool teacher meetings, QPPS support, tuition assistance, Growing together, KIDS, Healthy Families, respite childcare, family resource coordinator, childcare expansion, professional development, mini-grants



Key Identified Need/Priority:

- Children will be equipped with the skills needed to learn to be ready to take advantage of educational opportunities and learn to the best of their ability.

Measurable Goal:

% of children with kindergarten readiness skills

Why this important:

As children enter kindergarten with the skills need to learn, they will be able to take advantage of learning and learn to the best of their ability

State Result Linkage:

Key Community Indicator(s): (Baseline and trend information)	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06	Current FY
% of children with kindergarten readiness skills (as measured with teacher surveys)	84%	86%	87%	
% of children with kindergarten readiness skills (as measured with dibel scores)		80.65%	66.39%	N/A

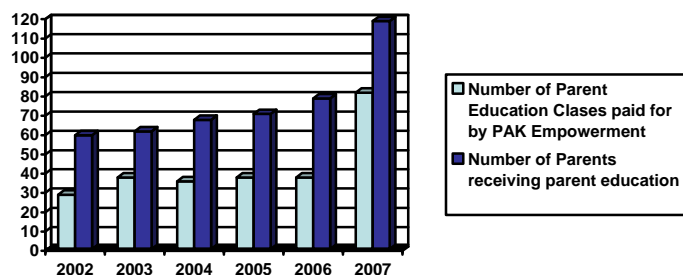
Service, Product or Activity to impact the Key Need/Priority:

Performance Measure(s) (Baseline and trend information)	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06	Current FY
# of Growing Together classes	36	38	40	82
# of preschools participating in quality improvement	0	11	11	14

Analysis of the Data/ Factors affecting the data:

The data provided shows that parent support programs are a priority to PAK Empowerment. Programs have centered around literacy and other kindergarten readiness topics. We increased funding this year and have had great results. We are able to offer this program throughout our entire Empowerment area. Collaboration with local school districts has strengthened this program and been the source of its success.

(Insert Graph of Community Indicator or Performance Measure)



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