MEETING MINUTES

GREAT START FAMILIES

March 21, 2016

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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IN ATTENDANCE: Elyia L., Stevi S., Kevin S., Rubenn L., Jody L., Lynn M., Matt M., Resha W., Katie H., Mary M., Jerry J., Katie B., Lora K., and Jen Ganzel (Parent Liaison)

SUMMARY

\*After the welcome activity introductions were made for Jackson County Prosecuting Attorney and Asst. Prosecutor Katie Branigan. They gave a 40minute presentation including videos and a little group interaction to discuss internet safety for young children and families. As a group we realized our early elementary kids had access to technology in school as well as home that none of us were prepared for. Our guests discussed creating safe places at home for kids to be on line out in the open, not behind closed doors. Discussing “netetiquette” with our kids age appropriately is imperative. Monitor your children use of technology and explore all of the parental safety features on phones, computers, apps and social media logins. The internet is a wonderful tool to help your child explore and learn about anything and everything but it can also be a scary place. No personal information…ever, and no meetings without parental approval. Great discussion followed even after our guests excused themselves.

\*Great Start in Life Awards were discussed. All of the discussion points and recommendations to the Executive Committee are attached in the Great Start Families Nominations documents.

\*Baker Early Childhood Conference information was shared out by attendees. Stevi, Kevin and Jennifer spoke about their breakout sessions and the keynote speaker.

\*Informed Families and congratulated Elyia on her appointment to the Great Start Executive Committee. Her first meeting is tomorrow, March 22nd. The Executive Committee is made up of 20% parents active in Great Start Families and other committees and affiliations.

\*April speaker will be Joan Lewis from Family Services and Children’s Aid. She will bring us information on Positive Discipline and Parenting Leadership. In May we will be working to invite Jackson Summer Kids programs coordinators to our meeting room. The City Recreation Dept., Ella Sharp, Dahlem and others will be included. And in June we will invite Rhonda Carrier to teach us about Yoga for every body including the littlest ones.

\*In an effort to grow the Great Start Families group we discussed and decided on creating a ½ page flyer and distributing to elementary schools and childcare centers to go home in backpacks in mid-April. We hope to see improved participation numbers in our May and June meetings.

\*Family Support is distributing the expanded playgroup schedule where Torrent Center therapists and teachers will be visiting and interacting with ALL families. Next meeting is April 14th 1-2:00pm at CAA.

\*School Readiness Committee has finalized the definition of “kindergarten ready” and Kelly Sheppard presented it to the 13 Jackson County Superintendents and received their blessing to move forward. Next meeting is April 19th 4-5:00pm at FSCA.