

Accomplishments of STEPS (since 2008)

- Created website dedicated to early care and education in Coventry
- Created Resource Guide for families with young children
- Created “ Going to Kindergarten” book for children entering Kindergarten.
- Organized music program for all children enrolled in preschool in Coventry.
- Organized Early Educators Collaborative for all early educators in Coventry
- Coordinated with Town Departments and School Officials to enhance services for young children and their families

Future of STEPS

The STEPS Collaborative was awarded a community planning grant from the William Casper Graustein Memorial Fund in the spring of 2010 to develop a community plan around early care and education efforts in our community. The plan will focus on children from birth to age 8 and will be data driven. To create a successful community plan, input from all key stake holders is essential. Following the creation of the community plan we will be eligible for a grant to implement the plan in 2012.

Do you want more information on how you can be involved?

The STEPS Collaborative meets once per month. Check our web page for more information.



For more information email
coventrysteps@yahoo.com

Find us online at:
www.coventrysteps.com

“ Policies that seek to remedy deficits in early years are much more costly than early investments wisely made and do not restore lost capacities, even when large costs are incurred. The later in life we attempt to repair early deficits, the costlier the remediation process.” -James H. Heckman Ph.D. Nobel Laureate Economics, 2000.



“Many Things Can Wait. Children cannot. Today their bones are being formed, their blood is being made and their senses are being developed. To them, we can not say tomorrow.” - Gabriela Mistral, Chilean poet

STEPS– Sharing Together Enriches Potential Success for Coventry’s Children

What is STEPS?

History:

The Coventry STEPS Collaborative was first formed in 2005 when Coventry received the School Readiness Grant from the State Department of Education. At that time, Coventry was required to form a School Readiness Council to oversee the management of the School Readiness grant. In 2008, Coventry became a recipient of the Discovery Grant from the William Casper Graustein Memorial Fund. The Discovery Grant brought many new opportunities to Coventry and the STEPS Collaborative has since widened its focus to address the community’s needs of children birth to 8, with a specific focus on the preschool population and their families.

Mission:

The STEPS (Sharing Together Enriches Potential Success) Collaborative will strive to increase the community’s awareness about the importance of quality preschool education, to strengthen the early learning experiences for all Coventry children, and to offer resources and support to families as the first teachers of their children.

How do we achieve this?

By bringing together families, schools, and community leaders, we are making progress in ensuring that all children have access to a quality preschool experience, that all families have the information necessary to make the appropriate decisions for their child in regard to early care and education, and that all children in Coventry have enhanced early learning experiences.

Who is currently involved in the STEPS Collaborative?

- Parents
- Early Education providers
- Social Workers
- Faith Leaders
- Federal, State, and Local Representatives
- Business Owners



**“A person’s a person –
no matter how small”**

-Dr. Suess

Visit us online at
www.coventrysteps.com

Why is Quality Early Education important?

The research tell us that...

- Two years in a high-quality pre-school setting result in dramatic increases in language and literacy skills, math skills, social-emotional skills, and fine motor skills, and lead to long-term gains in academic and career achievement.
- The First 1000 days of life are a time of rapid cognitive, linguistic, social, emotional and motor development.
- High quality early childhood programs can yield returns to society for each early dollar invested of up to \$17.
- There is a link between preschool education and drop out rates, welfare rates and crime rates.
- Children who participate in high quality pre-school programs need less special education support.
- Children of middle and upper class families enter school with vocabularies of up to 20,000 to 30,000 words. Children of lower income families, may enter school with vocabularies of only 6,000 words.
- By Age 3, the brain achieves 80-85% of adult size.