



Keiki Focus

News

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Working Together: P-3 Principals' Partnerships for Transitions Summit 2008



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For many of us, the importance of quality early learning experience, the importance of connection and communication between preschools and elementary schools, the importance of smooth transition - these things are all clear. It is actualizing these partnerships, putting the ideas into reality that is the challenge.

If you find this email informative, please take a moment to forward it to colleagues and friends.

Last week, the third annual P-3 Principal's Summit for Transitions gathered the early childhood community, kindergarten teachers and elementary administrators around the same tables. Success stories were shared and everyone was challenged to put their support and ideas into practice.

Get Involved

Your support is appreciated in whatever form it takes: contacting your legislator, passing news on to family and friends, or rolling up your sleeves and volunteering.

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Mahalo!

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Across Hawai`i, many communities are already linking early learning with elementary schools.

Early childhood professionals and kindergarten teachers and elementary school principals are working in concert to support the process of preparation for kindergarten and the transition, for children and their families, into their local elementary school. In addition to sharing successes, there was attention to the "how to," the lessons learned and hurdles, and plenty of time to question and seek advice. Elementary school principals had working time and productive discussions with many different voices from their own communities, exploring possibilities for partnerships to support early literacy.

State Superintendent Pat Hamamoto spoke of the importance of these public/private partnerships and the need to work together, partnering not only for shared resources but to learn from one another. She introduced the keynote speaker, Dr. Bette Hyde, the School Superintendent in Bremerton, Washington. Under Dr. Hyde's leadership, Bremerton has been recognized for award-winning collaboration between community-based early childhood programs and public school kindergartens, and has developed these while improving student achievement at all grade levels. Dr. Hyde visited a number of local programs and partnerships during her stay in Hawai`i. She addressed the conference and was able to share

some of her vast knowledge and experience of making things work for children to succeed in her schools.

Some of the P-3 lessons learned that Dr. Hyde shared include the importance of building relationships, being structured and intentional, accountability, and celebrating. Dr. Hyde discussed useful specifics that have worked in Bremerton such as an assessment loop through which data is given regularly to the preschools so they know how their students did in kindergarten, first and second grades. She shared how valuable the time for classroom walkthroughs have been for early childhood teachers to spend time in kindergarten, first and second grade classrooms and for her DOE teachers to visit the local preschool classrooms. [Read more at www.bremertonschools.org]

Good Beginnings Alliance is a nonprofit organization working in partnership with families, communities, policy makers, early childhood providers and advocates to shape community will and public policy, mobilize action and maximize resources for Hawai'i's children. Good Beginnings Alliance is a member of [Voices for America's Children](#)

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Good Beginnings Alliance | 33 S. King Street, Suite 200 | Honolulu | HI | 96826