

Somersworth Ready Together Early Childhood Coalition

Somersworth Ready Together is focused on making a difference for children and families in Somersworth by improving early childhood development, ensuring language development and supporting family engagement to promote school readiness to succeed. August was an exciting month for Somersworth Ready Together! Thanks to our partnership with the United Way of the Greater Seacoast and funding from the NH Charitable Foundation, we were able to hire Liz Belsito as our part-time Coordinator. These funds also supported stipends for kindergarten teachers to host visits with families of incoming children. Teachers reported that the visits provided a unique opportunity to establish a positive relationship with families that will continue through the school year. One teacher reported that as a result of the visits her Open House was remarkably different. Having already experienced the family visits, parents were visibly more comfortable, talking to one another, smiling and excited about the year ahead.

Coalition members continue to distribute Vroom materials throughout our Community and to build awareness and support for the Coalition's work. One of our members, a local parent leader, was able to get city approval to host story time in the local park, which is a popular park frequented by families with young children. She was also able to secure a donation of children's books from Scholastic.