



Family Connection Centers Indian River County, FL



Brief Description of the Program

As a community collaborative, the Kindergarten Readiness Collaborative (KRC) seeks to create innovation within the early childhood sector by engaging cross sector partners to serve the common goal of kindergarten readiness. Our initiatives are coordinated with local partners to avoid duplication of services and create a greater community-wide impact.

We recognize that family is the primary force in preparing children for school and life, and children benefit when all of the adults who care for them work together. Although the benefits of family involvement have been well documented, developing a quality model that is inclusive, relevant, and participatory is a daunting task. For the past two years, KRC has led transformative work in the 0-5 sector, particularly in the “pockets of poverty” in Indian River County (IRC). We view ourselves as Family Connection Centers in Fellsmere and Gifford, where families and community organizations are able to come together in a nurturing atmosphere. KRC's Family Connection Centers, a community-based initiative, has the unique ability of helping families improve their quality of life by building parents' and children's knowledge and skills while also addressing underlying family issues.

Program Descriptors include:

- Our Connection Centers are staffed by a person from the community who identifies families with children ages 0-5 and builds trusted relationships with them for the purpose of helping nourish the physical, social-emotional, and academic well-being of their children by connecting them to a peer network and meaningful community resources.
- Staff conduct a needs assessment of the individual family through home/office consultations in order to identify services that will be of value; and then create a connection/referral plan. Some partner agencies include: Healthy Start, Treasure Coast Community Health, Literacy Services, School District of IRC, 211/Help Me Grow, Early Steps, & Florida Health Dept.
- Staff create events in trusted spaces like monthly Family Nights and support groups to connect families to a network of peers struggling with early parenting issues and local providers, in an engaging and welcoming learning experience.
- Staff meet with families monthly to maintain relationships and support parent needs as they evolve.
- Starting next year, staff will begin a more formal process to identify and monitor social-emotional, health, and cognitive developmental goals and share milestone information with parents.

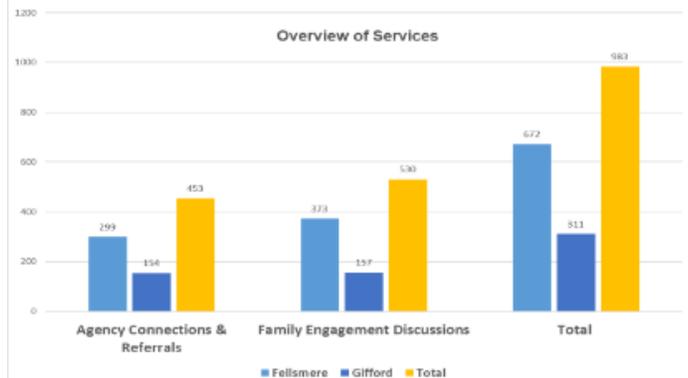
Some significant data points include:

- 295 children served in 6 months
- 64 connections/referrals to Healthy Start's prenatal & parent programs
- 19 children received early intervention screenings and, of those, 10 were referred to Early Steps
- Established a partnership with Sequel Care to provide mental health services to families at both locations
- 20 applications completed for preschool & kindergarten
- Interactions include: Family Connection Centers (51%), home visits (19%), events (18%), other (12%)
- 60 free dental screenings by TCCH

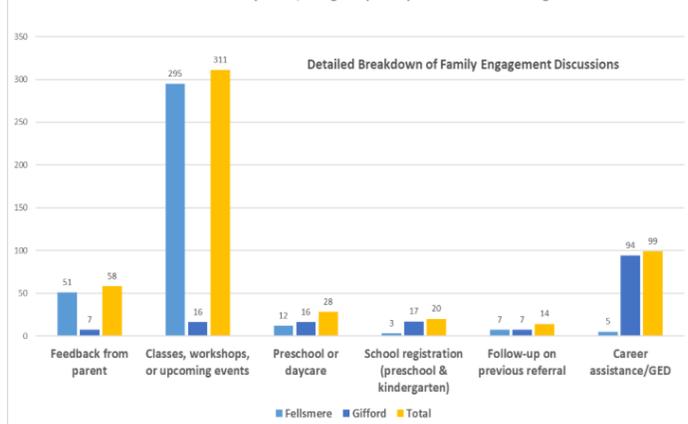


	Fellsmere	Gifford	Total
Families Served (unduplicated)	90	32	122
Touchpoints	238	171	409
Adults	90	32	122
Children	203	92	295
# Individuals Served	293	124	417

Intended Outcome 2: Increase access, awareness, and connections to local programs and services for 100% parent/caregiver participants with children ages 0-5.



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