History of KidsNow → Governor’s Office of Early Childhood

Early Childhood Progress in the Commonwealth

- **1990**: KERA
  - Kentucky Education Reform Act – Created State-Funded Preschool program and full utilization

- **2000**: KidsNow
  - Kentucky Invests in Developing Success – Created The Early Childhood Development Authority. Committed 25% of tobacco settlement to Early Childhood

- **2009**: Governor’s Task Force
  - Governors Task Force on Early Childhood Development & Education
    - A 28 member task force makes eight recommendations for early childhood in Kentucky

- **2011**: ECAC
  - Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) Governor creates the 26 member council to promote program accountability and provide guidance that affects Kentucky children and families

- **2013**: HB184
  - House Bill 184 Passed
    - Incorporated Governor Beshear’s executive order in KidsNow legislation

- **2014**: RTT-ELC
  - RTT ELC Brings $44.3mn to effect systems change in KY EC systems
Counties with Funded CECCs
Per KRS 200.707(1), “A council shall be composed of no fewer than seven (7) and no more than twenty-seven (27) members. Each council shall be composed of at least one (1) member representing local agencies or organizations from profit, nonprofit or family child care, Head Start or Early Head Start and each school district in its designated service area. Other members may be appointed who represent local agencies and organizations, including, but not limited to, the organizations or agencies listed:

(a) Early childhood advocate;
(b) Faith community;
(c) Family resource center;
(d) Military establishment;
(e) Child-care resource and referral agency or child-care subsidy agent;
(f) Child-care consumer or parent;
(g) County cooperative extension service;
(h) Department for public health;
(i) University, college, or technical school;
(j) United Way;
(k) Kentucky Early Intervention System;
(l) Agency administering services to children with disabilities;
(m) Home visitation agency;
(n) Family literacy agency;
(o) Civic organization;
(p) Public library;
(q) Regional training center;
(r) Community action agency;
(s) Government;
(t) Business community;
(u) Home schooling association;
(v) Health care professional;
(w) Foster care parent; or
(x) Adoptive parent.”
The CECC details

- The mission of the Franklin County Community Early Childhood Council is to support and strengthen the community by providing information to families, promoting quality in all early childhood programs, and to offer quality training to the early childhood stakeholders in collaboration with other agencies in Franklin County.
  - Monthly meetings
  - Committees
  - Officers
  - Expectations of GOEC
How can the Library serve the CECC?

- **Official capacity**
  - Fiscal agent
  - Officer: Chair, Co-chair, Treasurer, Secretary
  - Committee chair
  - Grant writing

- **Unofficial capacity**
  - Make connections to community organizations
  - Connect with child care providers, find new ways the library can serve them
  - Find ways for the Library to be integrated into the Grant
  - Library can host trainings

The Library becomes an obvious resource and authority on early childhood development and school readiness to change agents in the community.
How has PSPL worked with the CECC?

- Used grant funding to create Kids Kits, update kids kits
- Hosted Community Baby Shower, helped organize
  - Collaborated with local hospital, obstetricians, pediatricians, child care providers, insurance providers, organizations that serve children and families
- Collaborated to create Kids Fest, helped organize
  - Librarians are uniquely suited to plan large-scale events and serving that function on the CECC allowed us to further our role as authorities on early childhood.
- Provided training for child care providers
- Made connections with Born Learning Academy sites, visit each to provide information on library services
- Serve as central location for CECC meetings
Kids Kits

- Started circulating in 2004
- Collaborated with child care centers, health department, any other interested parties
- Created 60 themed kits based on needs of centers, community partners
  - We have since weeded and combined them down to about 44 kits
- Each kit contains books, dvds, manipulatives, etc.
- Check out for 3 weeks
- Circulated over 1000x in the past 5 years
- CECC provided some funds for updating kits
Born Learning Academies

- Developed in 2009
- Funded by Toyota, GOEC, United Way
- Must be hosted at a school
- Provides school-readiness information, strategies
- Provides child care, dinner and parent session
- Usually meets monthly
- In our community, the FRYSCs are the organizers of the BLCs.
- The FCCECC support the BLCs by providing materials that participants take home to help them practice what they learned about at each session.
- The Library has been able to present information on the Library and explain how our events help to develop and support school-readiness skills.
Kids Fest

- Serve on the Kids’ Fest committee within the CECC.
- Library is uniquely situated to help with an event like Kids Fest:
  - Many connections to the community.
  - Event planning experience.
- Serve as point of contact for Coordinator.
- Over 400 families with children in attendance.
- Our next Kids Fest is March 10 from 10:00am to 2:00pm at Kentucky State University!
What’s next?

- Find out if your community has a CECC.
  - [https://kidsnow.ky.gov/communities/cecc/Pages/locations.aspx](https://kidsnow.ky.gov/communities/cecc/Pages/locations.aspx) It looks like this site is a bit out of date.

- Make contact with the chair and try to attend the next meeting.

- Grants for 2018-19 were submitted February 13.
  - Even if the library had no role in writing the grant, there’s a way to make the library a part of the grant activities. You’ll just have to be creative and find it!