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Southington Child Care Providers to Receive Math Conceptual Development Kits and Training from Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington and the Southington Public Schools District Math Office

Funding for initiative provided by a grant from the Southington Education Foundation

Southington, Conn., September 13, 2016 – Through support by the Southington Education Foundation (SEF), Math Conceptual Development kits have been purchased for every family day care provider, nursery school and child care center in town. These math kits were conceptualized and created as a partnership between the Southington Public Schools (SPS) Math Coordinator's Office and the Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington (ECCS).

Directors and staff at Southington's early childcare providers have been invited to a workshop to learn about math skills for young children and activities to do with the math manipulatives in these kits. Dale Reidinger, the SPS Math Coordinator, identified the components, purchased the materials and will do the training. The kits contents, which were assembled by volunteers from the SEF, ECCS and SPS, include Unifix Cubes, Pattern Blocks, Attribute Blocks, dice, instructions and more.

"The Southington Education Foundation is pleased to provide funding for the Arithmatricks grant requested by the Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington," said Jan Galati of the SEF. "The Grants committee determined this project as an opportunity to provide hands on experiences in math and reasoning skills to preschoolers who will later move on to the public school system."

"Young children experience mathematics all around them helping them to make sense of their world," said Dale Reidinger. "Some basic mathematical concepts such as patterns and sequencing develop early in both infants and toddlers with simple early games we play with them. Recognizing patterns helps them to understand how the world works and sequencing helps to develop a sense of order, logic and reason. As they play, observe and interact with others, they learn to construct mathematical ideas in very informal but important ways. In these early years they will compare size and quantity, measure, build, recognize and create patterns and shapes, and sort and classify objects by their attributes. These early experiences show us that preschool children have a natural ability and interest to engage in mathematical thinking and problem solving."

The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and the National Association for the Education of Young Children issued a [joint statement](#): “High quality, engaging, and accessible mathematics education for 3-to-6-year-old children is a vital foundation for future mathematics learning.” Studies have shown that having knowledge of basic math concepts is strong predictor of later achievement of both math and reading.

An important educational goal is for children to have “good number sense.” Children need a wide variety of experiences and activities to help them construct many ideas about numbers. They must see relationships between numbers with connections to the real world using simple tasks. Conceptual understanding of numbers includes seeing relationships between more, less or equal in a group of objects; counting and numeral recognition. Counting tells how many items there are in a group. Young children must count with objects and while counting they need to associate one number count with every one object.

About The Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington

The Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington is a group of committed educators, community leaders, parents, healthcare providers, childcare providers and members of the community who are deeply invested in the growth, development and academic success of young children in Southington. The Collaborative’s mission is that “all Southington children will enter school ready to learn.” ECCS is dedicated to three goals: 1) Advocating for high quality preschool and childcare; 2) Empowering parents and families through workshops and educational programs; and 3) Being a wide ranging resource for community members on the subject of early childhood care and education.

The ECCS is funded by the Community Foundation of Greater New Britain, “Where Good Begins” in Berlin, New Britain, Plainville and Southington. The Foundation works to inspire philanthropy, manage permanent charitable assets effectively, and partner to address key community issues through strategic leadership. For more information, visit www.cfgnb.org.

For more information about the ECCS, and to review the Community Plan for Southington’s Young Children, visit www.southingtonearlychildhood.org. Visit ECCS on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ECCSouthington/>.

About the Southington Education Foundation

The Southington Education Foundation was established in 2009 as 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization. Since its inception the Foundation has provided 60 mini-grants to educators in all schools and at all grade levels. Additionally, the SEF has supported programs that provide experiential learning such as the Science at Sloper program for fourth graders and the Artist in Residence program for third graders. The Foundation has distributed funding thus far that totals nearly \$200,000.

The Education Foundation, Inc. is committed to instilling a life-long love of learning in all children through innovative, creative learning experiences that expand upon existing

educational opportunities. The Foundation will partner with the community to secure resources, inspire excellence, and enrich student achievement. More information is available at www.southingtoneducationfoundation.org/.

About The Southington Public Schools

The mission of the Southington Public Schools is to have students engage in a range of educational experiences to become informed, adaptive problem solvers who effectively communicate, rise to challenges, and are committed to improve themselves and their communities. More information is available at <http://www.southingtonschools.org>.