Five Hundred under 5

What is Five Hundred under 5?

Five Hundred under 5 (FHu5) promotes school readiness in north Minneapolis. It began as a collaborative initiative with community partners to engage parents, coordinate and improve services and supports for families, and provide information to parents and child-care providers about how children are doing in their development of school readiness skills.

FHu5 now is beginning a transition. FHu5 will join with the Northside Achievement Zone (NAZ). The university’s Center for Early Education and Development (CEED) will provide program development and research while NAZ will engage families and NAZ’s Early Childhood Action Team will staff and manage delivery of programs and services.

What is the goal of this program?

The goal is to make sure that children enter kindergarten ready to learn and grow into productive, thriving adults, and that parents and families have access to the information and services that will help them reach this goal.

Who are the community partners?

2007: Folwell Center for Urban Initiatives and Hennepin County’s Department of Strategic Initiatives and Community Engagement
2008-09: Minneapolis Public Schools, Way to Grow, the Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board, Hennepin County, and members of the Northside community.
2010: Ongoing partners and the NAZ’s Early Childhood Action Team

What are some of the benefits of FHu5 to the community?

- Families have access to timely information about their child’s development through assessments and connection to services and supports as needed.
- Through NAZ, families are connected to a supportive community member to help guide them through a family plan for their child(ren).
- FHu5 develops and implements programs and education to help parents support their children’s growth and development, such as Family Academy and the Family Discussion Nights.
- Families find out about high quality existing or new services they might want or need to help their children’s growth.
- Northside families and organizations can use information generated by FHu5 to advocate for services and supports to meet their community’s needs.

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