

What are the greatest STRENGTHS of Durham's early childhood system to ensure all children 0-8 are safe and nurtured?

- Instructions:
- Hover over the icons on the left-hand pane
  - Select the 4th down to create a "sticky note"
  - Write down one thought per sticky note
  - Click & drag your sticky note away from top left

Tool!

ana

Child Development Services Agency (CDSA) to help coordinate early supports

Push for livable wage around the low pay in early childhood education - finding solutions to the undervalued resource as a societal investment

A variety of services are available to meet the needs of our children.

Have a lot of Early Childhood Resources in Durham

Resources at local universities - NCCU, Duke, UNC

History of consistent funding and support for the many resources in Durham

Energy and organizing around different early childhood issues

EChO to help with developing the capacity of teachers developing social emotional skills in children in child care centers

Services are available in English and Spanish

Accessible services--free, in-home, outside business hours through places like Exchange Family Center, Healthy Families

Help with clothing and cribs and diapers and car seats to alleviate early stress

In-home parenting support, coaching and therapy to support parent-child attachment and parent capacity to respond to children

Collaborative multiple partners at the table supporting children

Existing efforts to coordinate/collaborate (Early Childhood Mental Health Task Force, Young Child Wellness Council, Local Interagency Coordinating Committee)

Commitment to funding and capacity building

Network of faith-based communities

Commitment from high level leaders in the community (DSS, City Council, County Commissioners) to ensuring young children are safe and nurtured

many local outdoor recreation resources-- parks, natural areas

welcome baby program

Book Harvest programs

Universal nurse visits to identify needs and connect to resources

Greatest Strengths- the willingness to be uncomfortable in finding solutions / understanding of equity as a community/ wealth of resources and passionate people

Durham has a lot of work groups (DART, ECMHTF) that are working on these goals

great local medical services, early access to cdsa services

University and college support - North Carolina Central University DUKE Durham Tech Community College around Education and Health

medical services

Strong pediatric health services

A lot of excellent pediatricians

Robust health systems with research focus

Community centric approach to supporting parents and families within the context of their culture and lived experiences

Wide and diverse therapeutic service system with many models of treatment

Research-based training resources for a range of professionals

Multiple evidence-based home visiting programs to support children and families

Universal and targeted home visiting programs to identify and connect families to needs

Family Connects Durham-- universal newborn home visiting

Use of evidence based programs

Licensed early childhood mental health providers

durham pre-k and smart start services

What are the greatest CHALLENGES of Durham's early childhood system to ensure all children 0-8 are safe and nurtured?

- Hover over sticky note to see left-hand pane
- Select sticky note to create a "sticky note"
- Write on sticky note
- Click & drag to move sticky note away from top left

Example

**Distrust of system**

Repetitive pulls on everyone's resources by pulling together committees or taskforces--how do we better communicate

Not a lot of capacity; families not aware of services that are available and providers don't have capacity to provide service

Resource rich but people don't always know how to access services

DPS and accessible/affordable early childcare

Cultural Awareness - value of lived experience. The caregivers have to feel supported and valued in their child's development

More spaces need to allow equity to lead the conversation and the work.

Missing voices from funding conversations: Black and Latin voices aren't always involved in the planning process for programs

Youth voice inclusion in conversation, particularly those with lived experience

Work groups are working separately; silos

economic inequity for families- so many people who are not getting their basic needs met - food/shelter/clothing levels of poverty children of color.

Greatest Challenges- lack of resources / concern that root causes are not being address/

cultural diversity: ensuring we can be culturally competent in services and meet needs in this space

Head Start not taking collaborative approach, working in isolation

numerous groups and organizations with grants/programs that have overlapping but competing priorities. leads to risk of duplicity and redundancy

disjointed system: Parents who need support can't always find it. Providers and Professionals don't always know all of the access points for services

strengthen relationships between ELL families and DPS. Need bilingual staff at multiple levels at every school, we are missing opportunities to engage and support non-English speaking families

Child care community is undervalued, under resourced

Ensuring the system has the support to be culturally competent

Language barriers for caregivers beyond Spanish language

**Fear**

That poverty and racism take up so much time and energy so that families can focus their energy on responsiveness to children

need - strengthen and build bridges between early childhood community and DPS. Need focus on supporting great transitions for kids & families moving into DPS

too many meetings - too much talk, not enough action

need - strengthen and build bridges between early childhood community and DPS. Need focus on supporting great transitions for kids & families moving into DPS

Wait lists for certain services - homelessness, childcare, fostercare

Sustainable resources that are accessible and affordable

massive housing disparities

Outdated eligibility requirements - distrust of the systems of those most vulnerable

Families are overwhelmed with providing the basic necessities such as housing, food and healthcare.

Communication between agencies and institutions

not harnessing volunteer capacity enough -need coordinated approach to connect people with time, compassion and skills to under resourced organizations

capacity issues

Intense focus on providers' capabilities, not enough focus on empowering the community to serve and support itself.

Adequate services and resources for children experiencing homelessness

Limited broadband access that is critical to accessing resources during the pandemic and beyond

Access and transportation