

Early Learning Days

April 20th, 21st and 22nd, 2017



Our Goal in 2016:



Transition into a Child Development Days model that would meet the needs of more families in our school district with children ages birth - five years old, while also promoting local community resources.

With our goal in mind, the Early Learning Team developed a comprehensive inter-agency model for all children (5 and under) in our community.

Through the transition, our mission to offer and provide families with growth and development information AND promote resources in our community was our focus.

In addition to offering resources to families, this structure provided parents and caregivers the ability to attend with all children (under five) and have each child screened simultaneously.

The Numbers

* 70 Families attended the April 2017 Early Learning Days

* 16 Children were either Birth to 3 or Early Childhood Screened with Steph Crawford, Early Childhood Teacher and Dawn Larson, Polk County Birth - 3.

* 2016 - 27 B-3/EC Children

* 54 Children were registered for PreKindergarten or Kindergarten and were involved in the “mini” Pre-K day.

* 2016 - 59 PK/K Children

* 2015 - 46 Pk/K children

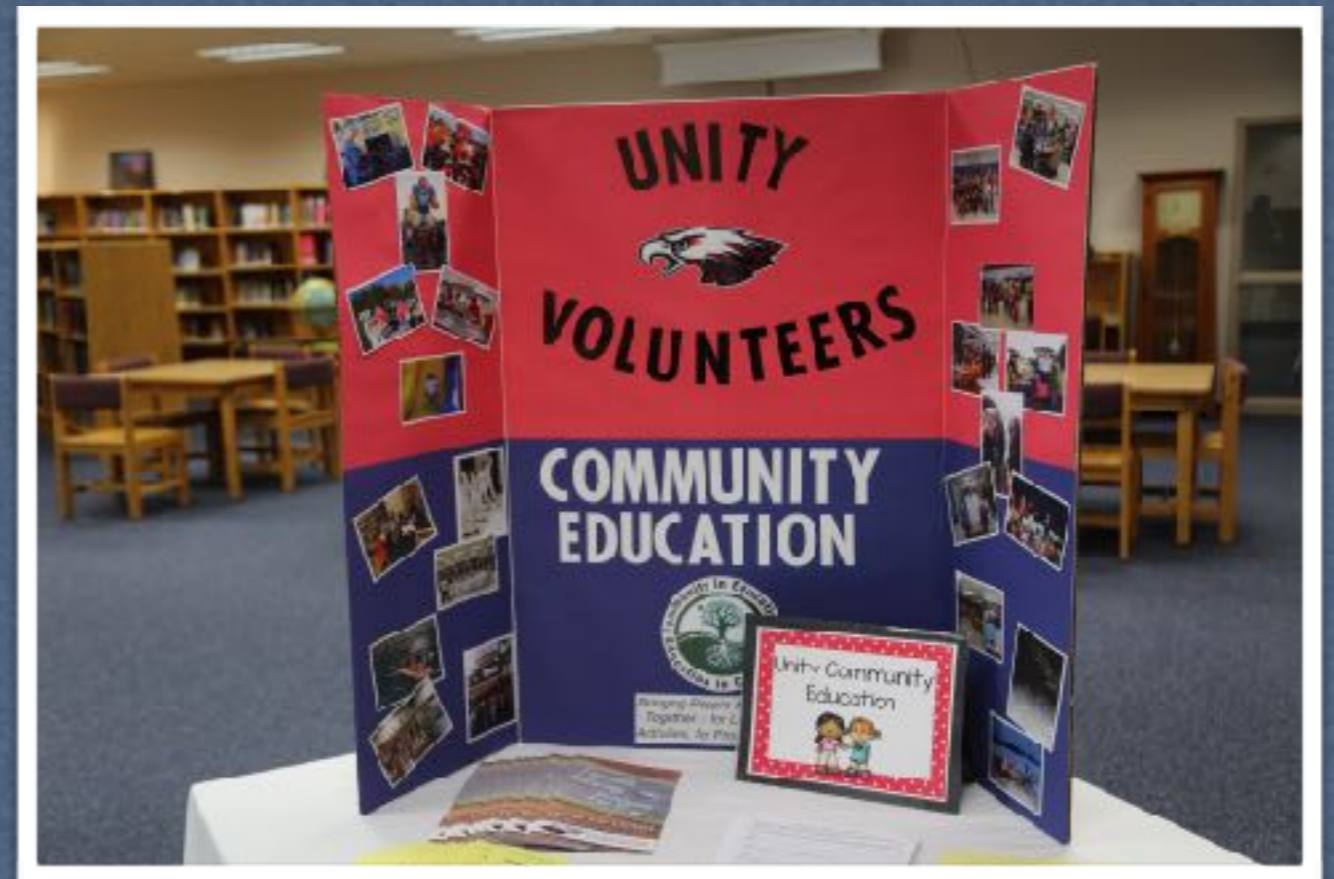
* 2014 - 66 Pk/K Children

* Agencies Attended:

* 2017 - 23

* 2016 - 19

* 2015 - 15



What Did Child Development Days Look Like in 2016?



What Did Child Development Days Look Like in 2016?

- * Before arrival, parents arranged a time for their child/children to attend (through the Elementary Office) at a specific time slot. When families arrived on the day of their appointment they were greeted and checked in at the “Welcome Table.”
- * From there, children (and parents) were invited into a classroom with same-aged peers to participate in a play-based screening with Early Learning Staff.
- * During screening time, if parents did not stay with their child they were visiting stations in the Library and learning about local community resources.
- * When children were done with their play time, each family was invited to conference with an Early Learning Educator. During this short conference Early Learning staff had discussions on their child’s current level of development, questions about the program & school were answered and resources to support further growth and development were offered.

What Did Child Development Days Look Like?



What We Learned in 2016

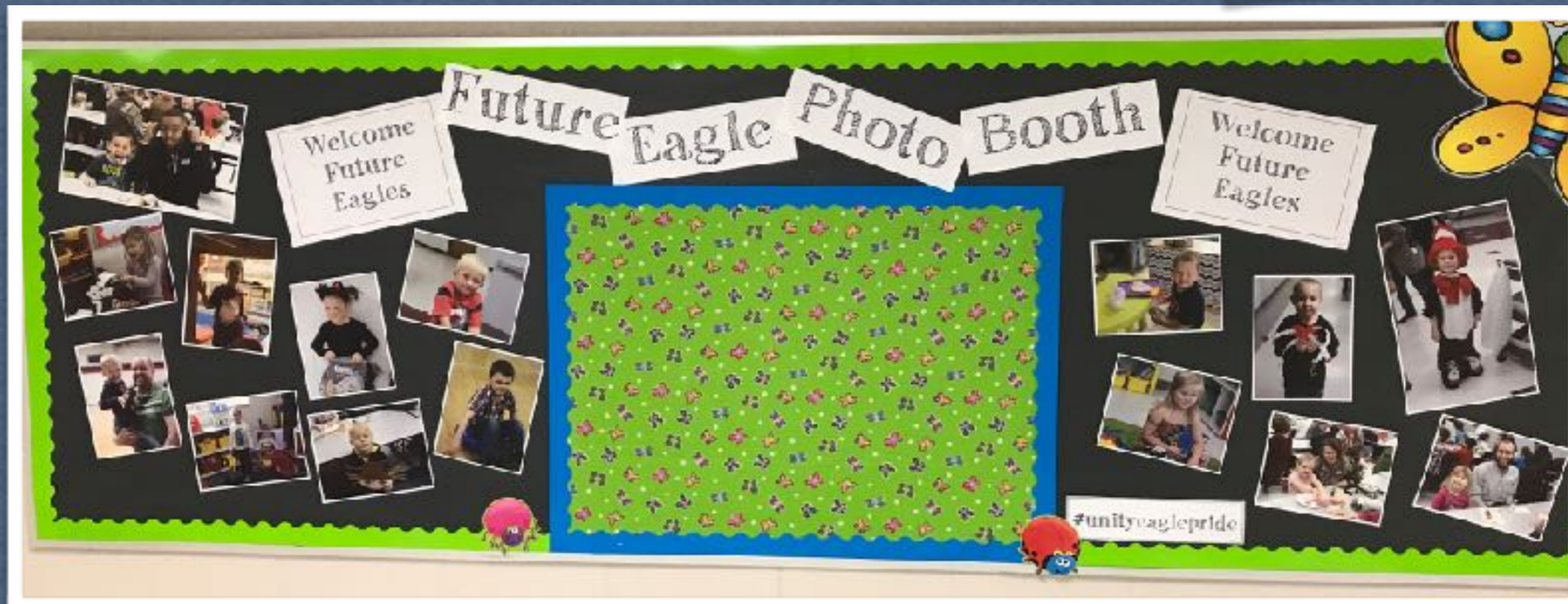
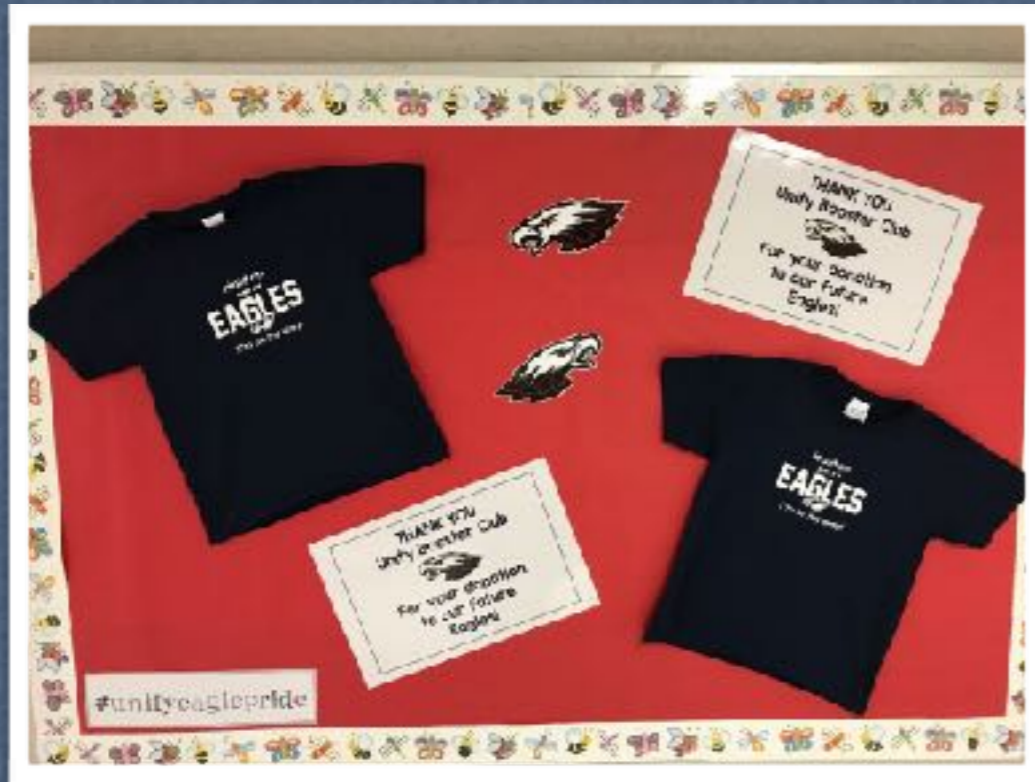
- * We loved having the chance to meet with every family to discuss their child, but felt that having a table (specifically for Busy Bug Families) would be helpful in answering general questions before conferencing.
- * There was overwhelming feedback that suggested we try to find one large space to have all agencies. We used all three Library spaces and the flow of traffic worked okay, but some agencies on the High School side did not have visitors.
- * We would like to change the title of the event to “Early Learning Days” so that families aren’t confused by our goal. This event is for everyone!
- * We added a Saturday morning option to support more families
- * We had great feedback from agencies and families and would like to add some of the agencies that they recommended (i.e. WEAP - Wisconsin Early Autism Project).

Feedback from Families & Agencies in 2016:

- * We handed out survey forms at the end for feedback from parents and agencies. We received 53 forms from parents and 10 forms from agencies.
- * 48 families answered “yes” to “Was it helpful for you to know more about the agencies within your community and in Polk County that are available to you and your family?”
- * 50 families answered “yes” to “Do you think the information you received on growth and development will be helpful to you?”
- * 53 families answered “yes” to “Will you suggest that other families with young children attend Unity’s Child Development Days?”

What Did Child Development Days Look Like in 2017?

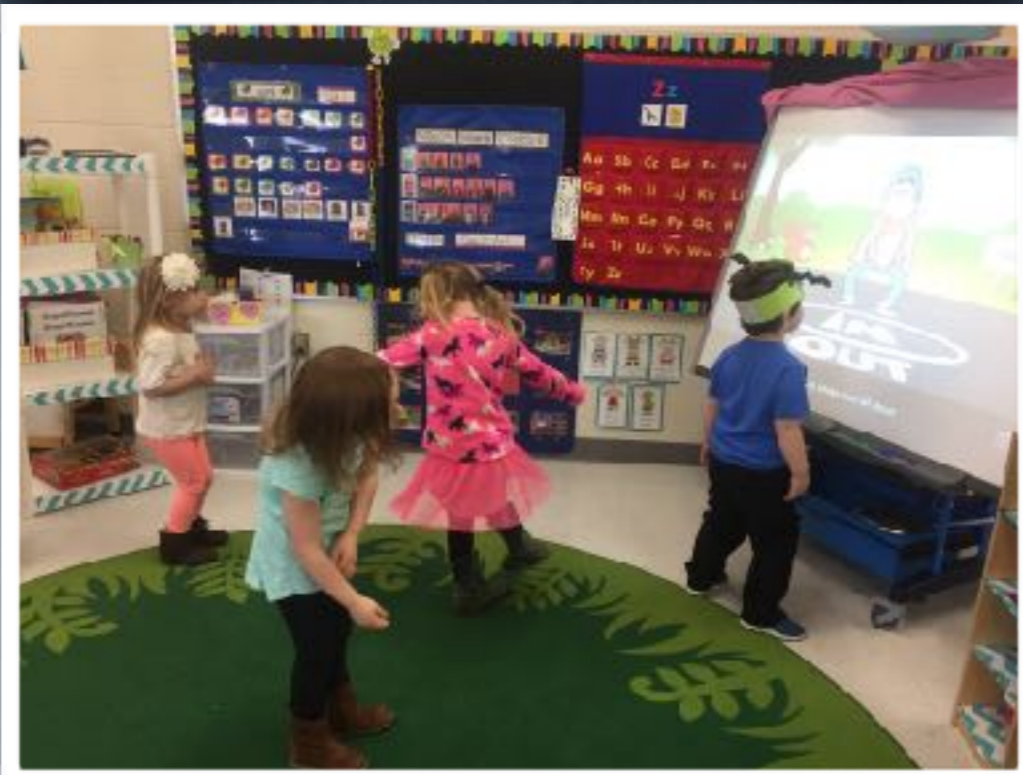
The Unity Booster Club generously donated t-shirts for each child that attended. The shirts said, "Hold On Unity Eagles, I'm on My Way!"



What Did Child Development Days Look Like in 2017?

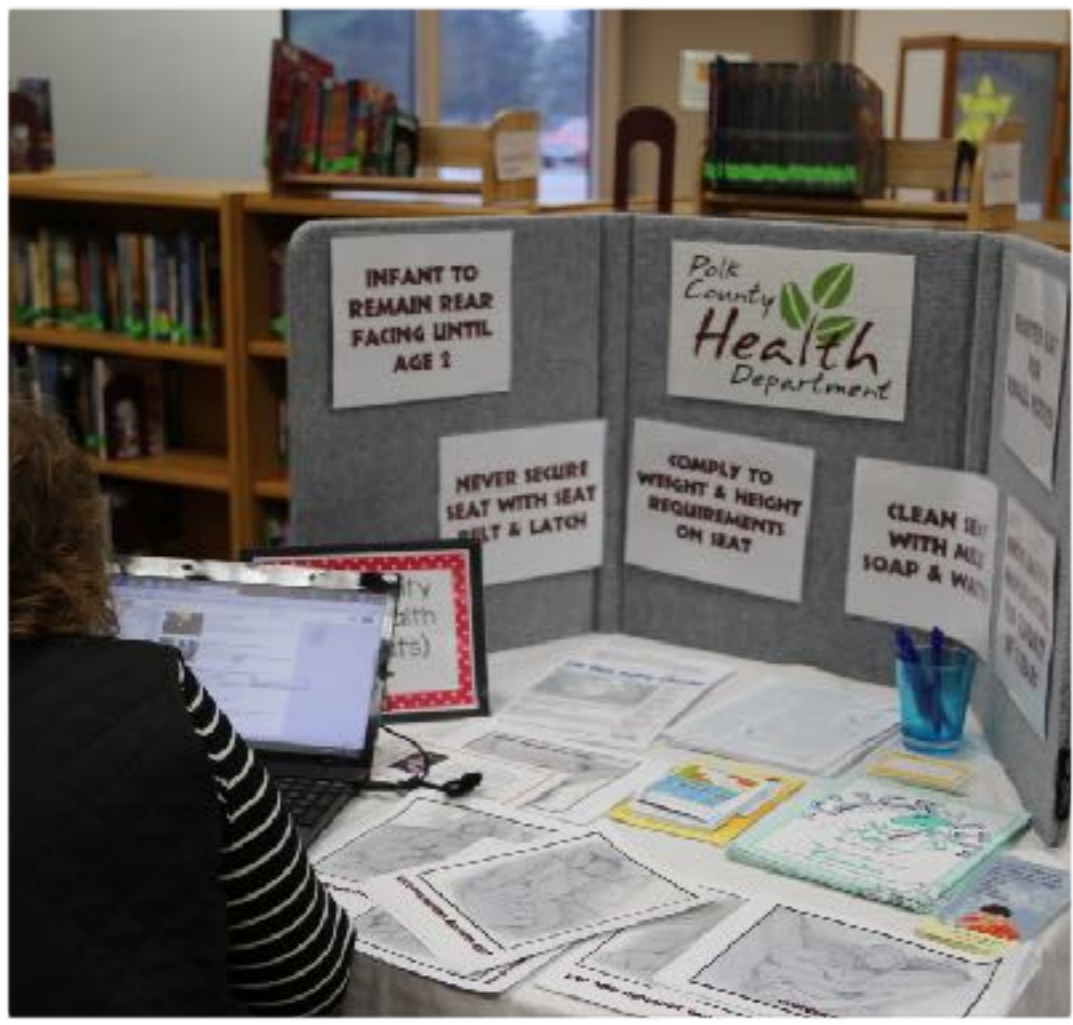
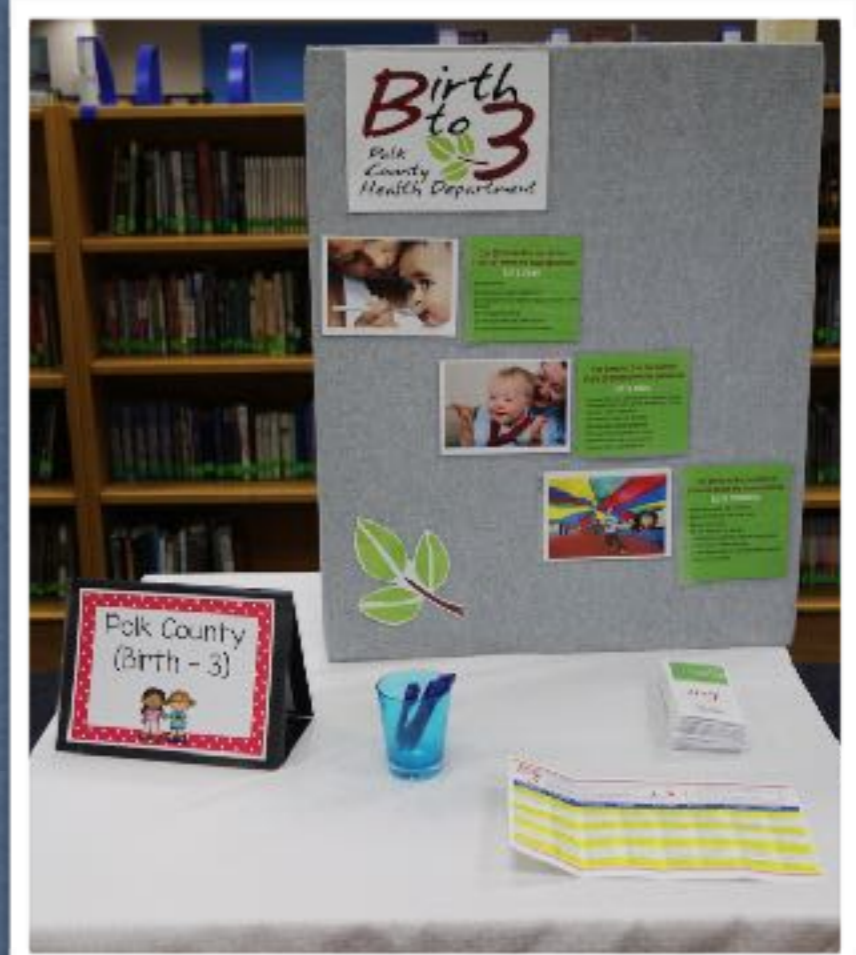
- * In 2016 we felt that changing the format would be beneficial for families and Early Learning Staff. However, after trying the individual screening model, we went back to our previous model where children were treated to a mini-day. Before arrival, parents arranged a time for their child/children to attend (through the Elementary Office) either a morning or afternoon mini-session. When families arrived on the day of their appointment they were greeted and checked in at the “Welcome Table”
- * From there, the Early Learning Team gave a short welcome to families and introduced themselves. Then the Early Learning Team called student names to invite a small group of children to the classroom for an hour of play with their same-aged peers. During that time they created a bug-themed project, sang songs, read a story and had snack.
- * While the children were playing in the classroom, parents were encouraged to visit agencies located in the Library. Also during that time parents were given a tour of the Unity Campus and had time to meet with important school resources (Nurse, Food Service and a Busy Bug teacher).
- * Following the classroom experience, children and their parents were invited on a fun-filled bus ride! Once back at school, families were encouraged to take photos at the Bus Bug Photo booth, see classrooms, visit with the Early Learning Team and ask follow up questions.

What Did Early Learning Days Look Like in 2017?



Community Agencies That Attended:

- * Amery Regional Medical Center
- * Milltown, Balsam Lake and Centuria Public Libraries
- * CESA 11
- * Children's Therapy Center
- * Family Resource Center (St. Croix Valley)
- * Peace Tree Counseling
- * Polk County Birth to 3
- * Polk County Early Learning Head Start
- * Polk County Family Preservation
- * Polk County Public Health - WIC
- * Polk County Public Health - Car Seat Demonstration
- * Polk County Human Services
- * Royal Credit Union
- * Salvation Army
- * St Croix Regional Medical Center
- * St Croix Festival Theater
- * Unity Booster Club
- * Unity Community Education
- * Unity School Resources
 - * School Nurse
 - * Kobussen Transportation
 - * Food Service



Feedback and Reflection on 2017:

- * Families LOVED getting a t-shirt for their child! We really appreciated the Booster Club and their donation!
- * Families appreciated the introductions of Early Learning Team and not introducing ALL agencies. Also felt tour of campus was a good idea.
- * The Early Learning Team had a great partnership with Community Ed! Christa was integral at being the resource person for contacting and scheduling agencies.
- * Families also loved the photo booth idea! Look at expanding this next year so more families have time to visit this area!
- * Continue to offer a Saturday morning option for families that cannot not attend during the week due to illness or conflicts. (Agencies, mini-day format and bus ride are not available during this session).
- * Research the idea of creating a session for families that have already had children go through the Busy Bug Program.
- * Looking forward to having ONE location!!

Questions?

