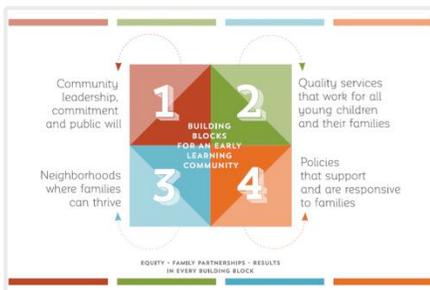




NEWSLETTER

Building Blocks for an Early Learning Community



Block 1 - Community Leadership, commitment, and public will

Block 2 - Quality services that work for all young children and their families

Block 3 - Neighborhoods where families can thrive

Block 4 - Policies that support and are responsive to families

Please join us at the fall quarterly meeting on **October 27, 2022, 5:30pm - 7:00pm**. Dinner will be provided. Please RSVP if you plan to attend. You can find details on the Eventbrite link below:



Emerging Leaders 2022 Cadre

ELRC Committee Updates

The 1.1 subcommittee created the first ever one-pager for Early Learner RC and which ELSD adopted. They also worked with Emerging Leaders (more info below) to collaborate on the importance of early learning in our community. The 1.1 subcommittee has finalized their sustainability plan.

The 1.2 subcommittee has been working with the library to create a how-to video for the Foundation Grants Database. This video was completed in June and will be added to the ELRC website page and will help childcare providers search for grants and funding for their organizations. They are also looking in to local advertising for ELRC in order to raise awareness. Lastly, they will be resuming the medical focus groups in the fall. The purpose of these focus groups is to discern how information for early learners and providers is discussed and disseminated by the medical community.

The 1.3 subcommittee vetted websites to put on the ELSD website page for providers and parents, worked with the Grow Campus (see more on pages 3 & 4) and has finalized their sustainability plan.

The 1.4 subcommittee has been working on a spreadsheet for the ELRC resource guide to help keep the information up to date. We have also been working with Starting Strong to develop a simple survey for parents and caregivers to find out where they gather and get their information from.



The South Dakota Statewide Family Engagement Center and JTVF Emerging Leaders, will be hosting the first ever FamFest in downtown Rapid City on Saturday, August 20th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Families with children ages 3-7 start at the Rapid City Public Library to receive a map of participating businesses to receive fun and engaging early learning activities. Businesses may have specials and activities set up in store.

The map will also take them to The Dahl where they'll find prizes, yoga classes, and South Dakota Parent Connection's Back to School Resource Fair. The event is free and open to all. More information can be found on Facebook at Rapid City FamFest by clicking the facebook icon below.



The 1.5 subcommittee created a "Rapid City Resources" document that can be found on the [ELRC Rapid City](#) community page and has finalized their sustainability plan.

Emerging Leaders

The Emerging Leaders group is a fellowship comprised of diverse representation of Rapid City that aims to educate the members on current issues in the community. They form different working labs that create a project to help in their particular issue. This cadre has 2 of those groups dedicated to work for Early Learner Rapid City. One of the projects that they are doing is a partnership with the Statewide Family Engagement Center downtown at the Rapid City Public Library and the Dahl with local businesses to support Early Learners! This will be held Saturday, August 20th from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm.

ELRC Takes Equity Work Seriously

Equity is embedded in all we do. To make sure we keep this top of mind, our Leadership team meets twice a year to discuss only this topic and score ourselves using the National League of Cities Equitable Early Care and Education Alignment Framework. To learn more about the framework visit this [site](https://www.nlc.org/resource/equitable-early-care-and-education-an-alignment-framework/): <https://www.nlc.org/resource/equitable-early-care-and-education-an-alignment-framework/>



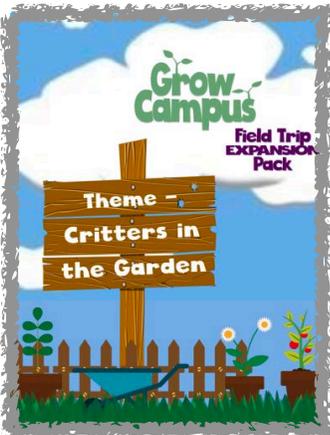
ELRC's Work with the National League of Cities Early Learning Community Action Guide

ELRC has been working diligently on the first block of the 4 Blocks in the NLC Guide. As we move through this work we feel that we are ready to take the next step into the remaining 3 blocks. Please stay tuned for what this will look like and for opportunities to participate in the important and fun work! To view the guide use this link: <https://www.nlc.org/resource/early-learning-community-action-guide/>

ELRC's Partners

FYI - ECC has now replaced the SDAEYC partner position.





Field Trip Expansion Packs can be checked out at Early Childhood Connections : 342-6464

The Grow Campus Project

The ELRC Subcommittee 1.3 has been working with Early Childhood Connections and the Outdoor Campus West to help provide an outdoor learning space for the early learners in our community called the Grow Campus.

The Grow Campus is an enclosed garden space at the back of the Outdoor Campus that has raised garden beds, a mud kitchen and a firewire landscaped area to educate the community on how to plant to be fire safe in your yard. ELRC purchased and installed a nice picnic table and a plaque will be added to it soon!

Early Learning Trails

We are also working on getting an Early Learning Trail system of signs installed at the Outdoor Campus West walking trails to encourage members of the community to take educational opportunities with their children as they walk through and play. The ELRC Advisory & Leadership Committees approved the purchase of the trail signs and these will be installed in the summer of 2022.





Garden boxes from the Grow Campus in the summer of 2021.



Water Needed

It is well known that plants need water to grow and the pump we used last year has pretty much given out. Early Childhood Connections has diligently been working with Outdoor Campus and the SDSU Extension Office to bring water to the Grow Campus. The garden is postponed for 2022 due to the lack of water available but you can still go out there and play in the garden. There are wheel barrows, riding toys and the kitchen to play in. You can also check out the many different types of plants that are in the garden.



Fire Wise Landscaping (at the Grow Campus)

While you are out exploring the garden, be sure to check out the Fire Wise landscaping! The Rapid City fire department initially established this garden and some of the plants are a bit overgrown and the signs a bit worn out. We are working on getting this side of the garden updated as well. You can still get an idea of how to plant your landscaping to be conscious of how to plant around your dwelling.