

## Waverly Child Development Center Parent Focus Group Summary

**Participants:** Katy Allaback, Anne Griffith, 6 parents (5 were non-English speaking)

### How would you describe your community?

- Albany feels safe, lots of parks, etc. But, some of my family who work with police talk about the bad things that happen in Albany.
- Albany is diverse. There are people with lots of money, with no money and with some money. A growing number of people don't speak English. There are many views on politics and faith.

### Do you think your community is a good place to live? What do you value the most?

- I love the diversity of the area; it makes for a much richer community and increases care for children. But, it takes a lot of time to get to know all the groups.
- It's very quiet; I don't see a lot of crime. Lots of parks and lots of services to help families.
- Albany is a good place to live. But in the Waverly area, it's growing more noisy and unsafe. There is more crime. I feel nervous.
- Whether you feel safe or not depends on the area you live in. I feel safe taking my kids to the school which is close and to the park.
- Lots of services that I can use. Lots of older people, they are quiet.
- Lots of parks and things for my kids to do. Also, lots of health services for those with needs.

### How can parents prepare their children for entering Kindergarten? What do kids need?

- We need to spend more time with our kids after work, even though we are tired. We need to talk with them and listen to them and help them learn things like how to use a pen.
- We need more time with our kids to show them how to use a pencil, learn their letters, etc.

### What can the community do for families?

- The desire to spend extra time with your children needs to come from within you.
- English-speaker: sad that Waverly has no place for parents or children to learn Spanish. Kids need to be able to talk with each other. Her child made a close friend in Kindergarten; they played together. But, they couldn't talk to each other. It's hard to connect with other children at school if you can't understand them.
- Katy may offer a language exchange between Spanish- and English-speaking families.

### Would you like Parent Education classes?

- Yes, classes on how kids grow, what to do when your child is difficult, getting kids ready for school, bullying, how to keep children safe (i.e. fire safety) etc.

After the meeting a parent said that they had purchased books for an English class at a church which advertised 1 English-speaker per student. But, the class had many students and only 1 teacher.