

### **Summer, 2019 – summary of FRYSC “giveaway” program and family accountability**

In general terms, the Family Resource Center staff believes that one of the methods with which to build trust and rapport with families is through meeting basic needs of their family members. One recent example goes as follows: Mrs. Zimmerman (special education teacher at NPS) recently asked Ms. Molly to accompany her on a home visit, at which she hoped to obtain necessary signatures on special education paperwork. Mrs. Zimmerman had been to the house multiple times, and no one had ever answered the door, even though she suspected they were home. On the visit with Ms. Molly, however, the student’s mother answered immediately, and thanked Ms. Molly for recently giving her daughter new shoes! Mrs. Zimmerman was able to complete the necessary paperwork, and believes this would not have been possible without the presence of Ms. Molly on the visit.

While we believe this anecdote illustrates the educational impact of FRYSC services, the staff also recognizes the importance of accountability and empowering families rather than enabling them; thus, the staff has put in place several accountability frameworks for various FRYSC programs.

- **Holiday Assistance** – To be considered for holiday assistance, families must attend, sign in and participate in at least two of the following family engagement opportunities: conferences, Family Fun Nights, bornlearning Academy (monthly parenting workshops), and Site-Based Decision Making Council meetings, FRC Advisory Council meetings, and school volunteer activities. In addition, all families were expected to write a thank you note to the person or organization that provided their child’s gifts (they did so upon pick up or delivery of the items).
- **Bornlearning Academy** – Many organizations are involved in making these monthly parenting workshops successful. At the end of the workshop series, all community partners (i.e., Brighton Center, Cooperative Extension Office, Christ’s Chapel, family portrait photographer, Campbell County Public Library, etc.) receive a piece of pottery decorated with the fingerprints of the children who benefitted from their participation. Also, families who attend receive many services on the evening of each night they attend these workshops. These services (i.e., laundry detergent, diaper assistance, Kroger gift cards) would be unavailable to them if they did not actively participate.
- **21<sup>st</sup> Century after school club participants (in FRYSC-sponsored clubs)** – Throughout the school year, students are given the opportunity to write thank you cards to varying agencies and individuals who assisted in donating supplies for the clubs.
- **Adopt a Class** – Students in “adopted” classrooms were asked to assist in creating thank you gifts that were provided to each organization (“adopter”) at the end of the school year.