

Saginaw County's TRUE Initiative

The TRUE Update

truesaginaw.org

5.08

“The proper time to influence the character of a child is about a hundred years before he’s born.”

William R. Inge

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To Our Partners

So we find ourselves at the end of the 2007-2008 school year—the year that the *Peddlesfoots* curriculum met with such success in so many kindergarten classrooms around Saginaw County. We’re

very excited about rolling out the first grade curriculum next year, along with the other efforts of the TRUE Initiative. As usual, we couldn’t do it without your support. Thank you so much!

First Grade Up Next . . .

On May 7, local first grade teachers met with the Initiative at the Saginaw ISD Transitions Center to begin preparing for next year’s implementation of the first grade level of *Peddlesfoots* curriculum.

Participants heard presentations from members of the TRUE Team about the overall goals of the

Initiative, how the *Peddlesfoots* curriculum can meet these goals, how the Initiative is being evalu-

ated, what role teachers and service providers play, and more.

We’re looking forward to this “first grade year” being even smoother and more successful than

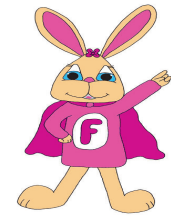
last year. And: there’s room for more. If you know anyone—especially a first grade teacher—who would want to partner with us,

please have that person contact us. The more people involved, the better off Saginaw County will be . . .



Training and More

Over the course of this past year, we hope that the visits our trainers have been making to participating kindergarten teachers have been helpful. The plan is to continue these kinds of in-class visits next year with our participating first grade teachers. Also, early next school year, there will be a day-long training session for new members of the Initiative. Please be looking for informa-



tion on training dates as the 2008-2009 school year draws near.

Evaluating the Initiative

At our recent first grade informational meeting, one of our evaluators spoke at length about the Initiative's evaluation process—one of the more complicated parts of being a participant in

the Initiative.

Suffice to say, next year's participants will also be a part of evaluating whether or not the Initiative is making a real change in the character of children.

Also suffice to say, we're getting better at implementing this process, so things should be smoother for the upcoming year. Look for some preliminary data from this year to be communicated soon.

What's new @ truesaginaw.org

- Find this newsletter, the 2007-2008 calendar, coloring pages, and more on the site
- Post on our Forum at any time and check out our TRUE Tips winners' comments

What Else?

As you already know, the Initiative's primary goal in 2008-2009 is the implementation of *Peddlesfoots* in our area first grade classrooms. We hope to have another great year, and as always, please utilize the TRUE Team, our website, etc., as resources for you as par-

ticipants.

We're also in the middle of planning some out-of-the-box things for the Initiative to get more involved in the Saginaw Community. During the next year, in conjunction with community partners, the Initiative will be planning a performing

arts contest of sorts to tie in with our early childhood efforts. Along with this: pieces in the Family Magazine, our TRUE Tips contest, and more. Congrats to Susan Fjerstad, our newest TRUE Tips winner, by the way.

See you next year!