Research indicates that children 0-5 years of age undergo a tremendous amount of brain development preparing them for the process of formalized learning. This means that the environments which children are in prior to entering kindergarten are extremely important. When UWSEI was given an opportunity to write a grant to increase preschool seats for the community of American Falls, we were thrilled!

Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children (AEYC) provided the grant, UWSEI facilitated the planning process, and a committed group of community leaders from American Falls implemented this innovative initiative. **In its pilot year, the collaborative more than doubled their goal of increasing quality preschool seats by 301**! Feedback from the American Falls community shows that demand for preschool is high, setting a standard for a continued increase in quality educational programs for young children in the coming years.

**THE GOAL WAS TO INCREASE PARTICIPATION IN QUALITY PRESCHOOLS THROUGH OUR INITIATIVE, BY 30 SEATS FOR FALL 2020. WE INCREASED BY...**

74! 💼

**LAST YEAR THERE WERE ABOUT 48 THREE AND FOUR YEAR OLDS PARTICIPATING IN QUALITY PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS IN AMERICAN FALLS AND THIS YEAR TOTAL THERE ARE...**

118 AND COUNTING! 💼

**WHAT A K-2 PRINCIPAL IS SAYING**

"As the K-2 principal from the American Falls School District I am so excited to see and watch our community come together to support our youngest preschool learners. I have seen efforts to strengthen the quality of preschool services and also increase available preschool positions. Additionally, the scholarship funding offered has allowed some students the opportunity for preschool that otherwise would not have been able to attend.

All the efforts being put into pre-kindergarten education in American Falls will make a positive impact on our school and district's success. As we build a stronger fundamental educational foundation our youth are sure to excel in a multitude of ways."

**WHAT PARENTS ARE SAYING**

"I want to say thank you, especially for providing opportunities for a scholarship. That not only helps out our family for affordability but many other families to be able to have their children attend preschool because preschool can be pretty costly on top of daycare, etc."

"Honi at St. John's preschool has been so helpful! I wasn't able to transport my child to preschool because of work and she put me in contact with families from our same daycare so we could carpool. So helpful when she didn't have to! My little guy is also LOVING preschool!"

"It has been delightful to have a large group of people looking out for my preschooler and if she's registered and where! Lots of options and information. I feel reassured that my child will receive quality education at most AF preschools (those participating). Thank you!"

**BY THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR (SPRING 2021) UWSEI WILL HAVE PROVIDED ABOUT...**

$47,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO ELIMINATE FINANCIAL BARRIERS FOR FAMILIES!

**PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS**

American Falls Community Parents
American Falls School District #381
City of American Falls
Driscoll Management Company
Health West
Idaho Public Television
Idaho STARS, Region 6
Lamb Weston Corporation
Lighthouse Preschool
Power County Head Start
St. John’s Preschool
United Way of Southeastern Idaho

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