



Connecting Families. Strengthening Communities
A program of the Children Services Council

What is Strong Starts for Children-Palm Beach County?

A dialogue-to-change program that will include diverse groups of people from each Bridges community. This project will engage community members and community leaders in six weeks of dialogues leading to a change. The dialogues will include honest conversation about strong starts for our children. Trained facilitators will help move the conversations to action by the end of six weeks.

Who will participate?

The group will be made up of people from all walks of life. We will include parents, partner agencies, government officials, businesses, faith based community, etc. The most effective efforts contain a cross section of participants who come from all parts of the community and hold a range of view points and our group will represent this diversity.

What will we discuss?

Each dialogue group will work from the Everyday Democracy study guide titled ‘Strong Starts for Children’ 2014-2015. Each of the Bridges sites has a focus outcome. The chosen 2015-2016 outcome will be Kindergarten Readiness. This guide will help focus us talk about the kind of change our community needs in the above area and help us create a vision of a better life for every child.

What will the participation look like?

The dialogue group will run for *six weeks* in a row beginning the 4/28/16. (A meal will be provided.) We will meet at the Bridges at Belle Glade – 816 W. Canal Street South, Belle Glade, FL 33430. Once you commit to participate, you will want to be sure you clear your schedule for the entire six weeks. We need your voice in every session and you will gain the most from the experience by participating each week.

Where can this lead?

In our talks, we will be creating a vision for change. During the last session, our group will decide on some key actions. At the end of six weeks, you will be able to share our group’s ideas at a large “Action Forum.” Those who want to stay involved will work with others to carry out these ideas. By taking part in this process, we can have *real impact* on the lives of the youngest children in our community. It will take all types of actions to make the kind of difference we need.

The guiding principles of the groups

- ❖ **Listen with respect, and learn from each others lives, cultures, values and traditions.**
- ❖ **Learn about the issues.**
- ❖ **Look at all sides of the issues and talk about more common concerns.**
- ❖ **Come up with ways to bring about changes in our community.**
- ❖ **Join forces with each other and with public officials.**

The Deadline for registration has been extended to Tuesday, April 26th. If interested in participating, please call Trenesia at 561-841-3500 ext. 4302.