

January 20, 2005

STAFF REPORT

MEMO TO: SUTTER COUNTY CHILDREN & FAMILIES COMMISSION
FROM: DEB COULTER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON TRANSITION BACK PACK PROJECT

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the recommendation of the Executive Director to continue the distribution of the kindergarten transition back packs.

BACKGROUND:

The Kindergarten Transition back pack project provides a universal opportunity to provide pre-school materials to all children through the age of 5 and encourage parent interaction with their children.

The initial purchase of 1000 backpacks have been distributed through several venues including school readiness coordinators at Bridge, King and Park Avenue schools, Bright Futures, kindergarten registration events and Smart Start. The evaluation of the back pack parent surveys from Duerr Evaluation (submitted at the 10-04 Commission meeting) reported that 93% of the parents reported their children were "very" interested in the backpack's items. Almost 50% of the parents reported daily use of the backpack by their children. 74% of parents reported the quality of the items as excellent. Duerr Evaluations conclusion stated "High parental satisfaction with the quality and usefulness of the backpack, combined with high enthusiasm and heavy usage by the children clearly shows that the back pack program has been successful in providing an additional tool to make the transition to kindergarten more successful."

The purchase of additional backpacks will ensure that kindergarten students for September 2005 can be given a backpack when they register for school.

CURRENT PROPOSAL:

It is requested the Commission approve \$40,000 funding to purchase 1000 backpacks.

IMPACT ON COMMISSION RESOURCES: \$40,000 for FY 05/06

POLICY ACTION REQUESTED: Approval of recommendation.

DC:bd