

United Way of Laramie County End-of Year Report
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Agency Name: STRIDE Learning Center Program: Better Together Initiative Reporting Period: Jan - Dec 2009

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Agency Mission/Vision:	The mission of STRIDE Learning Center is to provide comprehensive quality services for children with special needs and their families in a safe and compassionate environment so that they may achieve their fullest potential.
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Community Issue Program Targets:	STRIDE will screen and evaluate in order to identify children in need of early intervention services and provide necessary special education and or therapies in order for the child to grow developmentally.
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Program Target Population:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children, birth through age 2, in need of early intervention services in their case management in their natural environment. (typically home)• Preschoolers, age 3 through 5, in need of special education, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech language therapy, nursing, mental health supports.• Collaboration with community childcare providers and preschool settings.• November 1, 2009, STRIDE's child count increased 5% from November 1, 2008.

Program Significance to the Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The impact that STRIDE Learning Center has on a child and family is most evident in those instances when a child has struggled with significant developmental delays and has made significant progress in skill acquisition.• Through medical referrals, 1 Before 2 referrals, childcare referrals, friends and parent referrals, STRIDE screens and evaluates children reaching 9% of the 10% targeted population.• Child care providers who have participated in specialized training for the social emotional development of very young children are now able to better able to address the specific needs of all children in their care.• STRIDE identifies more children from birth through age 2 than in past years. This is due in part to increased efforts of child find by developing a relationship with the local hospital and gaining this valuable referral source.• The increase in infant and toddlers served is a direct result of on going 1 Before 2 screenings that identifies children with developmental delays.

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Program Resources		Program Activities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 84 paid employees, 4 foster grandparents, and parent volunteers. 1 classroom for screening and .5 FTE salaries for 2 screeners. State funding through State Department of Health and Wyoming Department of Education. Federal funding for mandated services. Local funds and grant efforts. Contracts with Cheyenne Transit for transportation. Collaboration agreements with Head Start, Early Head Start, and Peak Wellness. TANF money for 26 children. ARRA Federal incentive money. Medicaid Funds 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child find, developmental screenings and evaluations. Hearing and Vision screenings. Home visit intervention therapy sessions. Preschool classroom intervention. Itinerate special education and therapies. Specialized parenting classes. (such as sign language instruction) Community training and education, as well as, technical assistance to child care providers in the social emotional area of development. Case management.. 	
Outcome	Performance Measure	Method of Measure	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Child progress <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) 64% of children progress to typical levels of development in one area of development b) 81% of children progress c) 58% of children progress to typical levels of development 2) Parent/Caregiver satisfaction <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) 96% of parents reported STRIDE partners with them in their child's education b) 98% of parents are satisfied with the services their child receives. 3) 703 received developmental screenings and/or assessments at STRIDE. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three areas of development are measured: positive social emotional skills, acquiring and using knowledge and skills, taking appropriate action to meet needs. STRIDE uses the child outcome summary federal reporting form monitoring entrance and exit data in order to determine progress. STRIDE uses standardized evaluation tools. Wyoming Department of Health parent survey. STRIDE Learning Center data collecting, tracking and billing documentation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial evaluation Progress notes Individual Family Service Plans (IFSP) Individual Education Plans (IEP) Documented observations Family interviews and reporting Anonymous parent surveys Transition evaluations Exit assessments Child Outcome Summary Forms (COSF) 	
Program Results		Results Analysis and Next Steps	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entry and exit data indicate children who receive early intervention services for at least 6 months gain skills according to COSF ratings of social/emotional development, use of knowledge and skills, and the ability to take action to meet needs. STRIDE Learning Center continues to train in early childhood social/emotional development to any front line service provider requesting the education. STRIDE Learning Center provides follow-up technical assistance after training to any front line service provider seeking additional support. STRIDE Learning Center maintains cooperative agreements with licensed mental health clinicians in the community to provide professional intervention services when necessary. STRIDE Learning Center's child find efforts are successful identifying eligible children in need of early intervention, special education and related services. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over the past couple of years, data trends indicate STRIDE Learning Center is identifying a large percentage of children, birth through age five, with special needs in Laramie County. The trend is likely due to improved advertising and partnerships to ensure screenings and assessments to potentially eligible children. National research indicates 10% of a community's preschool population is likely to be identified as developmentally delayed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o STRIDE Learning Center reached 9% of the eligible population in Laramie County in 2009. Data does not point to any significant differences in the population other than what we see nationally with increased identification of children with autism spectrum disorder and children with social/emotional delays. STRIDE Learning Center developed a stronger collaboration with community child care providers and educators as we serve more children outside our preschool classroom setting. STRIDE Learning Center is providing direct social/emotional development services specified in a child's service plan. 	