

## **Racine Unified School District's Commitment to Developmental Screening**

***By Culleen Witthuhn, Racine Unified School District, Early Childhood Principal***

**Racine Unified School District (RUSD)** is committed to screening children throughout the community. We have begun a process of doing developmental screens for all children whose parents have concerns about their overall development. We have set up developmental screens one day per month throughout the year. These screening sessions are being held at different times and at different locations throughout the city, so that parents may be able to attend one that is close and convenient for them.

Our screening teams are using the *ASQ-3*, *ASQ:SE* and the *Fluharty Preschool Speech and Language Screening Test* as screening tools. These tools allow time for educating parents about the development of their child. It takes a complete quick peek at overall development including articulation. The parent will be given information about if the child requires an evaluation as well as information about what they can begin to work on at home. We are hoping to create a card for parents to take to pediatricians' offices as well, so that they know what the child's scores were at the screening. Many of our pediatricians in Racine are using *ASQ* as a screening tool also.

Our community partners are vitally important to the success of the screening process. We have incorporated Birth to Three into many of our Universal Developmental Screening days, so that all children Birth to 5 can be screened in our community. Many of our United Way Agencies are also participating in our screening days by bringing the families they work with to the different dates. We refer parents in our community to Family Smart Kid Friendly East for home visitation support. This is another agency that RUSD collaborates with including Racine Family Literacy, YMCA, and the United Way. It takes a village to raise a child; RUSD believes that by collaborating with our community we can further close the achievement gap by ensuring all our children are on track in their own development.