

### Falls City Sixpence Program Expanding

(KLZA)-- The Falls City Sixpence program is expanding. During the July School Board meeting it was announced that Susan Witt and Amber Lotter have been hired as Home Visiting Specialists for the program joining Susan Johnson and Director Kathy Martin.

Superintendent Tim Heckinlively also announced that District 56 has received a \$91,500 Sixpence Expansion Grant from the Trustees of the Sixpence Early Learning Fund. The program is a pre-school and parent-education program for children up to three years of age who qualify. This will be the second year of the program in District 56, which has one of the model programs in the state.

The Falls City Sixpence program will operate on approximately \$241,500 in grant funds for the 2015-16 school year. All of the money coming from grant funds. Nearly everything in the program is reimbursable.

Research has shown that high quality programming is very important for infants and toddlers development. Knowledgeable workers, the number of children in a group, and the ratio of children to caregivers are all important in developing a quality program.

Sixpence awarded grants to sixteen communities to fund high-quality early childhood programs serving at-risk infants and toddler across Nebraska. Heckinlively says while you can't see into the future, it appears the grant funding for the program will be ongoing.

The Falls City Sixpence Program has been serving 30 families with seven or eight more on a waiting list.

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