APPENDIX TWO: MAKING SENSE LEARNING SYSTEM

The University of Northern Iowa is responsible for the development of the *Making Sense Online* resources. These online videos and supplementary learning resources in mathematics, literacy, and early learning, provide research-based strategies to engage parents in their everyday learning. This learning system was originally a part of Project SOAR (Student Online Achievement Resources), which is an innovative project dedicated for United States military families and the military support personnel that serve them. Even though this system was developed for military families, it has application for Cedar Valley children and their parents.
UNI is now doing a market analysis to start the process of making this learning system available to the public. While the online resources will eventually be taken down, they can be currently viewed by registering at www.makingsenseonline.org.

The following pages contain an overview of the *Making Sense Learning System,* along with links to view some of the videos. Please note: This document will need to be in electronic format in order for the links to work.

OVERVIEW OF MAKING SENSE LEARNING SYSTEM

Making Sense Learning System (MSLS) is a series of research-based, innovative educational tool kits for families. Within each tool kit are entertaining videos that demonstrate learning strategies, as well as supplementary hands-on materials to further extend student learning.

Have you ever spent hours on end struggling to help your child truly understand what they're supposed to be doing? The ***MSLS*** provides strategies to optimize the time you spend helping your child outside the classroom. Do you ever feel as if you don't know enough yourself to really help your child understand? The ***MSLS*** includes materials that build the confidence you need to have real conversations about mathematics and literacy. Do you find that your child can answer the problems in the back of the book, yet can't apply this understanding to new situations or problems? The ***MSLS*** provides ideas designed to connect the concepts children learn to real-life skills. Are you ready to throw in the towel because you've tried every conceivable idea you can think of to help your child understand? The ***MSLS*** gives you opportunities to have a lasting positive effect on your child's academic achievements.

Fully aligned with the Common Core State Standards, these ***MSLS*** tool kits are designed to help students move from simply memorizing a procedure, to deep conceptual understanding. They engage families in real-life situations and empower parents!

Thinking Aloud! Making Sense of Literacy

To be truly literate, you must succeed in several key areas. ***Thinking Aloud! Making Sense of Literacy*** focuses on these key areas of literacy: reading, writing, speaking, viewing, and listening. It is designed to *help you* help your student make sense of challenging literacy concepts. You and your child will be fully engaged by the ***Knowledge Seekers***, who make their thinking explicit by "Thinking Aloud." By sharing the invisible thought processes that are going on inside their heads as they read, write, speak, listen and view, the ***Knowledge Seekers*** let viewers in on the "secrets" of how to make sense of literacy. The supplementary materials provide opportunities for your student to try these strategies or processes flexibly for themselves! Includes **65 videos, 39 virtual learning tools and 365 print materials.**

Problem Solved: Making Sense of Mathematics

Math does not come easy for everyone, but with a little help, it can make sense! ***Problem Solved: Making Sense of Mathematics*** focuses on key concepts of number and operations, geometry, measurement, algebra, data analysis and probability. Each video examines one key mathematical skill or concept. Video characters help your student make sense of the mathematics as they represent and solve real-life problems. Many people equate mathematics with arithmetic and memorizing facts, formulas, procedures and getting correct answers. Mathematics is SO MUCH more! Mathematics is understanding and flexibly using number and operations, measurement, geometry, algebra and data to represent and solve everyday problems. When children understand or make sense of mathematics, they know when an answer is reasonable and correct. This understanding enables children to use their knowledge flexibly, adapt their knowledge to new situations, learn new ideas, and solve problems they will face in the future. Includes **60 videos, 46 virtual tools and 370 print materials.**

Learning Together: Making Sense of Early Childhood

Do you ever feel like your child is too young to really learn anything? ***Learning Together: Making Sense of Early Childhood*** focuses on opportunities to engage in learning activities with infants, toddlers, and preschoolers through every-day activities. Yes, we said infants! The series of engaging videos shows parents interacting with their children and models creative ways to meet the developmental needs of young children in both literacy and mathematics. These videos give parents the confidence to interact with their children in meaningful ways as they learn together as a family. They demonstrate families extending their children's learning by

- doing daily activities
- playing with toys and games
- reading together
- talking together

Includes **34 videos, 54 print materials and 4 early childhood games.**

Spectrum Parenting: Making Sense of the Autistic World

If you are a parent of a child on the Autism Spectrum, does this sound familiar?

"I've tried everything I can think of!"
If only my child would stop doing _____, it would be so much easier!"
"I'm at my wit's end!"

If so, you are not alone! ***Spectrum Parenting: Making Sense of the Autistic World*** focuses on opportunities for parents and caregivers to engage with children who are on the Autism Spectrum. The *Ways to Play, What to Expect*, and *Tips for Parents* video series supports families through the unique process of sparking imagination, collaboration, responding to change and exploring social interaction in their children. Families are equipped with printable resources, step-by-step guides, and the encouragement to start making sense of it all. The videos demonstrate families extending their children's learning by

- exploring ways to play together to spark learning
- understanding what to expect
- playing games
- learning helpful tips

Includes **1 introductory video, 28 videos and 5 print materials.**

Below are links to videos for use in the survey. The selections may be based upon the participant.

Early Childhood
Baking & Cooking with your Child

Joe and his children, Joey and Sophia, are busy making pancakes together. They boost this ordinary daily activity into an exciting recipe for learning literacy, mathematics, and social skills by adding just a few simple strategies to the process. You, too, can whip up a tempting learning opportunity by:

- Exploring ingredients, thinking about measurement, and observing the changes that take place during the cooking and baking process.
- Practicing new and unusual vocabulary words associated with cooking and baking.
- Discussing the benefits of following step-by-step directions in recipes.
- Creating family traditions that are full of learning opportunities.

Spectrum Parenting
Importance of Play

Ways To Play - Magic Stick

Problem Solved
What is a Triangle?

What is a Triangle?
Nate delivers pizza to a home and ends up discussing his favorite shape, the triangle.

- Determine a test for triangles using key characteristics.
- Investigate why some shapes that *look like* triangles are not triangles.
- Examine whether or not real-life examples pass the triangle test.

Fractional Parts of a Number

Fractional Parts of a Number
K.T. visits Rocco's Guitar Store to get her guitar restrung and helps the store manager determine how many students plan to attend a recital.

- Make sense of fraction word problems.
- Learn to represent and solve fraction problems with a double number line.
- Use proportional reasoning skills.

What is Pi?

What is Pi?
Carlos visits Larry's Landscaping and helps a student interested in landscape design determine the area and circumference of a circular flower garden.

- Investigate the relationship between the circumference and the diameter of a circle.
- Investigate the relationship between the area of a circle and the radius squared.
- Develop an understanding of pi.

Regression

Regression
Visit a bowling alley with Sonya and learn about the relationship between height and shoe size.

- Make sense of the least squares regression equation using visual representation.
- Use the least squares regression to make predictions.
- Learn when predictions are most reliable.

Thinking Aloud
Literary Genre: High Fantasy

High Fantasy – Jumping into Genre: Fantasy (SPOT)
Good readers know that wide reading helps them to build their vocabulary, their knowledge about the world, and their knowledge about texts and how they are structured. Travel into imaginary worlds of quests and conflict, magic and wizardry, and coming of age. Join Skylar as he lands in the world of High Fantasy.
In this SPOT, you will learn:

- characteristics of high fantasy
- about the genre of fantasy
- where to find high fantasy in your library

Fluency Friends - "Rate Man!"

Rate Man: Developing Reading Fluency (rate) (SPOT)
One of the Fluency Fiends, 2 Fast, is trying to read from the Secrets of Fluency Handbook, but no one can understand him because he's reading too fast. But never fear. Fluency Friend, Rate Man, helps readers with the right pace. Join Ward and learn how the right rate helps you be a fluent reader.
In this SPOT, you will learn:

- why it is important to read at a conversational pace

- characteristics of readers who read too fast or too slowly
- how to read at a good rate

Cause-Effect Chain: "Caution: Flash Flood Alert"

Caution: Flash Flood Alert: Cause – Effect Relationships Nonfiction Text Structure (cause-effect chain) (Thinking Aloud! video)

What do a bowling ball, rubber chicken, and weather forecast have in common? Join Reed and Cali after school as they THINK ALOUD in order to learn how authors use Cause-Effect Nonfiction Text Structure to describe what causes an event and what happens as an effect of that event; specifically cause-effect chain.
In this video, you will learn to:

- think about cause-effect relationships, specifically cause-effect chain of events
- identify signal words
- create graphic organizers