



C.O.O.R.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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To: Shawn Petri, Superintendent

From: Katie Keith, Early Childhood Supervisor

Date: June 2025

Subject: Early Childhood Update

Great Start to Quality

We are excited to announce that we have hired Salena Laskowski, who is currently the Director of Crawford AuSable Day Care to help us with our LEP (Licensed Exempt Provider) work. The position is remote and just 5-6 hours a week in order to help us backfill responsibilities from our other team members who are facilitating the Family Child Care Network (FCCN) work. We are confident that she will bring positive energy to the team and a “can do” spirit.

Our Infant/Toddler Specialist, Tracey Stein, is wrapping up with her Learning Community of 10 programs in the Northeast Region. This group has met over the period of 18 months. Each month they receive 2 hours of Professional Development counted in MiRegistry for credit for required licensing hours, along with at least one coaching session. The coaching session is driven by the needs of the provider, staff, families, and ultimately the whole program. Tracey will begin recruiting new members for this cohort in July in order to begin the new fiscal year with a new group in October, 2025.

Part of our work is to supply-build for the field of child care. This means encouraging people to open up a child care program in order to build the supply for the demand of child care. One of the strategies to do this is to get Licensed Exempt Providers who are only providing care for friends/families/and Neighbors to go through the process of getting licensed. We approach them and ask if they would be willing to get licensed, so they can increase the accessibility of more families and children to serve. Melissa Maeder was able to work with an LEP in the West Branch area and they just opened up a licensed program in May.

Great Start Collaborative & Great Start Parent Coalition

We're excited to share that we had 40 kids attend our just for kids, Hands-Only CPR Class! 🙌

This fun and interactive one hour session taught children the basics of how to recognize an emergency and take action using hands-only CPR. 🚒

A big thank you to Zach from MyMichigan who partnered and facilitated two sessions for us and The Collective for letting us use your space. It's partnerships like this that help us bring information and education to our communities! 🤗

We hope to continue bringing this informative session to our parents, caregivers and kids throughout our counties!



Great Start Readiness Program

Enrollment [dashboard](#) 2025-26

The Governor's Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 includes funding to expand the *Strong Beginnings* pilot preschool program. Administered by Clinton County Regional Educational Service Agency, Office of Innovative Projects (CCRESA-OIP) under the leadership of the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP), the program is preparing for expansion pending final budget approval.

Strong Beginnings is a state-funded preschool initiative designed for three-year-old children who face factors that may place them at risk of low educational attainment. COOR ISD did submit an application to participate in the pilot. Notifications of the grant award should be by the end of June.