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To: Shawn Petri, Superintendent

From: Katie Keith, Early Childhood Supervisor

Date: October 2024

Subject: Early Childhood Update

**Great Start to Quality**

• We are celebrating accomplishing our goal that we set at the beginning of the fiscal year (October, 2023). While coaching our child care programs, we helped move programs up to quality levels they had never yet attained, twenty five times.

• We currently have 68% of the 206 licensed child care programs voluntarily participating in Great Start to Quality. 62% of these participating programs are licensed Family/Group homes. 75% of the participating programs are licensed Centers. This is the highest level of participation I have seen since being in the role of the Director.

• Our Northeast Great Start to Quality Resource Center staff attended a Process Communication Model (PCM) training in September. We enjoyed the training and are seeing many ways this will benefit our working relationships and all relationships in our lives. We continually work on making sure our Team culture is positive and supportive.



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## **Great Start Collaborative & Great Start Parent Coalition**

The Collaborative has received our FY25 allocation. We are seeing an increase of \$155 with a total allocation of \$308,130 - That's 32p and 32p6 combined budget amounts. The 32p6 funds have been granted to us for a second year, but are not guaranteed money year to year. These dollars go to support our Talking is Teaching Campaign and the majority of our literacy initiatives.

Our early childhood department has been given the opportunity to participate in PDG5 miniseries. PDG5 miniseries will consist of short videos highlighting a large number of programs and services available in Michigan for families with children up to age 5, and for families that are expecting children.

The series is narrative, meaning they are crafting a story based on people's answers to very open-ended questions. The viewer will see footage of community events, classrooms, programs, and even families' homes where early childhood workers, guardians and young learners engage in everyday activities—learning, playing, eating, etc. The final product is meant to be representative of the whole state, and the goal is to promote Michigan as a great place to raise children.

COOR's early childhood department will focus on two families. One parent has received our newborn literacy bag at Grayling Munson Hospital and has also become a preschool teacher for a GSRP classroom in Grayling. The other parent will highlight participating in our Rose City Playgroup and touch on transitioning to a private tuition-based preschool.

## **Great Start Readiness Program**

Katie and Rebekah have provided multiple professional learning days for GSRP over the month of September. The professional learning for all staff was focused on the Pyramid Model Modules and supporting social-emotional learning. The professional learning for new staff focused on the necessary onboarding of tools and programs used by GSRP. Professional learning is monthly for the entire year for GSRP staff.