



C.O.O.R.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Crawford • Oscoda • Ogemaw • Roscommon

11051 North Cut Road
Roscommon, MI 48653
phone (989) 275-9555

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To: Shawn Petri, Superintendent

From: Katie Keith, Early Childhood Supervisor

Date: August 2024

Subject: Early Childhood Update

Great Start to Quality

Our team has been enjoying a little bit of a slower pace this summer, reflecting on what has worked well so far this year and what things we will be doing differently for this upcoming fiscal year. We are currently putting together our Professional Development Opportunities for child care providers for FY25. We also recently applied for a \$10,000 grant that will help supplement our funding in order to cover time spent partnering with the Office of Strong Start within child care licensing. This will cover our extra time as staff working with licensing navigators to help support programs that are opening up or expanding within the PreK for All realm. We continue to partner and attend the events and meetings with Michigan Works and other partners who are trying to build the workforce through apprenticeship programs and other opportunities to help folks get the education and experience needed to grow the child care industry. Helen Shastal, our Co-Director and Quality Improvement Coach for Iosco County, is looking forward to attending the ribbon cutting ceremony for a new center in Oscoda (Iosco County) on August 11th. Helen has been working with the owner for about 6 months while trying to find a suitable building and giving her support on how to set up the environment so that it is developmentally appropriate.

Great Start & Great Start Parent Coalition

Our Iosco Family Coalition has been busy all summer trying to grow and expand the coalition. We have an amazing group of parents that have taken the lead to create opportunities for families in their community. Each month through the summer they have put on a beach day, adopt a grandparent, and play dates in the park. They also participated in the 4th of July parade to bring more awareness of the Family Coalition.



Great Start Readiness Program

August is here and Katie and Rebekah are prepping for the August staff professional learning. Staff will be returning over the next few weeks as the first day of school quickly approaches. Katie and Rebekah have a full year of professional learning ahead for staff: Pyramid Model modules, Professional Learning Communities, Literacy Essentials, Key Elements, curriculum and assessment.

For the 2024-25 school year, COOR will continue with 20 classrooms again. Some of the classrooms have increased their capacity to serve 20 children in a classroom. Crawford, Ogemaw and Oscoda County enrollment numbers continue to increase. Roscommon County numbers are low for all programs and programs are implementing creative marketing strategies to recruit families.