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To: Shawn Petri, Superintendent

From: Katie Keith, Early Childhood Supervisor

Date: September 2024

Subject: Early Childhood Update

Great Start to Quality

- All staff attended a Great Start to Quality Annual Convening in Mt. Pleasant. This meeting is great to get us all on the same page for moving forward into our work for this next fiscal year beginning October 1, 2024. The underlying theme was self care and making sure that we are the best version of ourselves in order to make the most impact in our work.

- Our Team met yesterday with an on-site assessor in our area who is doing the scoring for our child care programs. We wanted to collaborate and find out the best way for us to support/coach our providers. Our team is planning to work together and lay out a plan for FY25 to take a deeper dive into the *All about ITERS* and *All about ECCERS* books. These are books that have the details of the expectations on the indicators in which programs are scored. This will enhance what we are already doing well and hopefully elevate the quality of our interactions in helping programs prepare for their observations.

- Last month, we applied for a \$10,000 grant through ECIC and we received it. The expectation of the grant is that we will be the eyes and ears in the field of any Pre-K for ALL new classrooms who are trying to get licensed. We are to bring any barriers to the top in order to best support them. This includes extra meetings with Licensing consultants, OSS navigators (Office of Strong Start) in order to stay connected and problem solve, so we can get these sites up and running.

Great Start & Great Start Parent Coalition

Great Start Collaborative

The first week of August, our Iosco Family Coalition put on their very first Talking is Teaching Sports week camp for kids 2.4-4 years old to encourage families and children to engage in physical activity. We had 26 total children that attended the camp. Each day focused on a different sport with different stations.



Great Start Readiness Program

2024-25 is off to a great start! Pre K programs are beginning school this month. To kick off the year, we help our regional wide professional learning with all pre k staff. The events took place at Gerrish Higgins Township all to our overwhelming number of staff. We have implemented some new systems to support staff with their learning throughout the year as well as consistent opportunities to provide feedback on every professional learning event.

This early we are bringing Charlton Heston on for our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports working with the Pyramid Models. This brings us to a total of 3 programs implementing PBIS. We are looking forward to bringing on two more programs next year. Our goal is to have all programs implemented by the end of 2027.