



Preschools and child care professionals don't stop!

Even as COVID-19 cases have surged and K-12 schools have gone totally virtual or closed, Preschools and child care providers have remained open. They're serving families who need to be on the job and keeping children learning.

Many programs also are supporting children who aren't physically in class with virtual instruction. While we've all seen how older children are struggling with learning via a screen, imagine teaching really young children! Early learning educators are doing an amazing job.

Many Preschools and child care programs still are operating at reduced capacity to keep children and staff safe. **The cost of educating young children has increased — not decreased — in the face of COVID-19.** While Congress provided funding for child care in the stimulus

legislation that passed in December, it's not nearly enough to meet the real need.

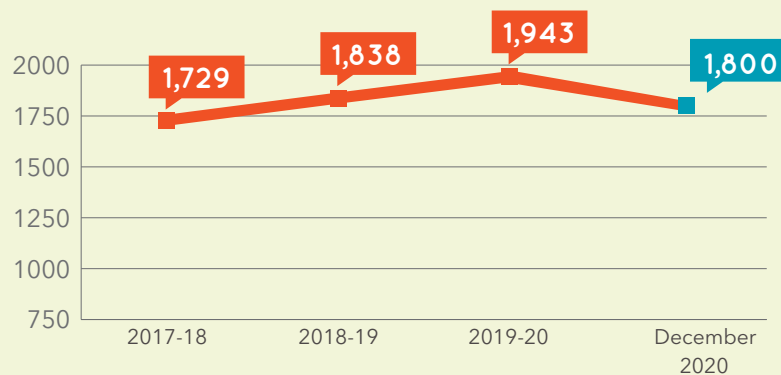
We're excited that our new **Preschool Promise PLUS** initiative just keeps growing in popularity. **Nearly 1,300 children are using their new free tablets** and spending a healthy amount of time with research-based learning apps.

Almost all Montgomery County families with a 4-year-old can join Preschool Promise PLUS, **including children who aren't attending Preschool or who aren't enrolled at a partner program!** If you know a family who may be eligible, invite them to join [here!](#)

Our children are counting on us getting them ready for Kindergarten even in a pandemic!

COVID-19 continues to impact Preschool Promise enrollment

4-year-olds attending Preschool Promise sites/Enrolled in Preschool Promise PLUS



Because of COVID-19, enrolling children in Preschool has been much more difficult this year. That's why we created Preschool Promise PLUS. Nearly 1,800 families are enrolled and are either sending their child to a Preschool Promise partner site or are participating in Preschool Promise PLUS.

* In 2019-20, Preschool Promise expanded from Dayton and Kettering to Jefferson Twp., Mad River and Trotwood-Madison school districts.

In 2020-21, Preschool Promise expanded to Northridge.

How we're doing on the 3 pillars of the Preschool Promise

"A sincere thank you for the tablets for Preschool Promise students! Thankfully, our daughter's Preschool has not had to shut down. But we feel more prepared for another potential shutdown with ABC Mouse, as well as the monthly Play Boxes and books."

— Preschool Promise parent



EDUCATING THE COMMUNITY

- Despite COVID-19, **our outreach team attended more than 60 events this quarter**, including visiting food pantries, houses of worship and apartment complexes. We also participated in trunk-or-treat events and turkey give-a-ways.
- **We placed over 2,500 Preschool Promise door hangers in one month.**
- We celebrated the hard work of this year's Parent Ambassadors and accepted applications for next year's team. **Almost 100 people applied for 2021.**
- **We held virtual visits with legislative candidates**, showcasing child care programs and the work they're doing during the pandemic.

EXPANDING QUALITY

- **271 early childhood educators are enrolled in at least one of our professional development opportunities.**
- **224 teachers are participating in our 9-month-long Professional Learning Communities.**
- **Our coaches have gone virtual**, helping teachers improve their instruction even though they can't physically be in the classroom.



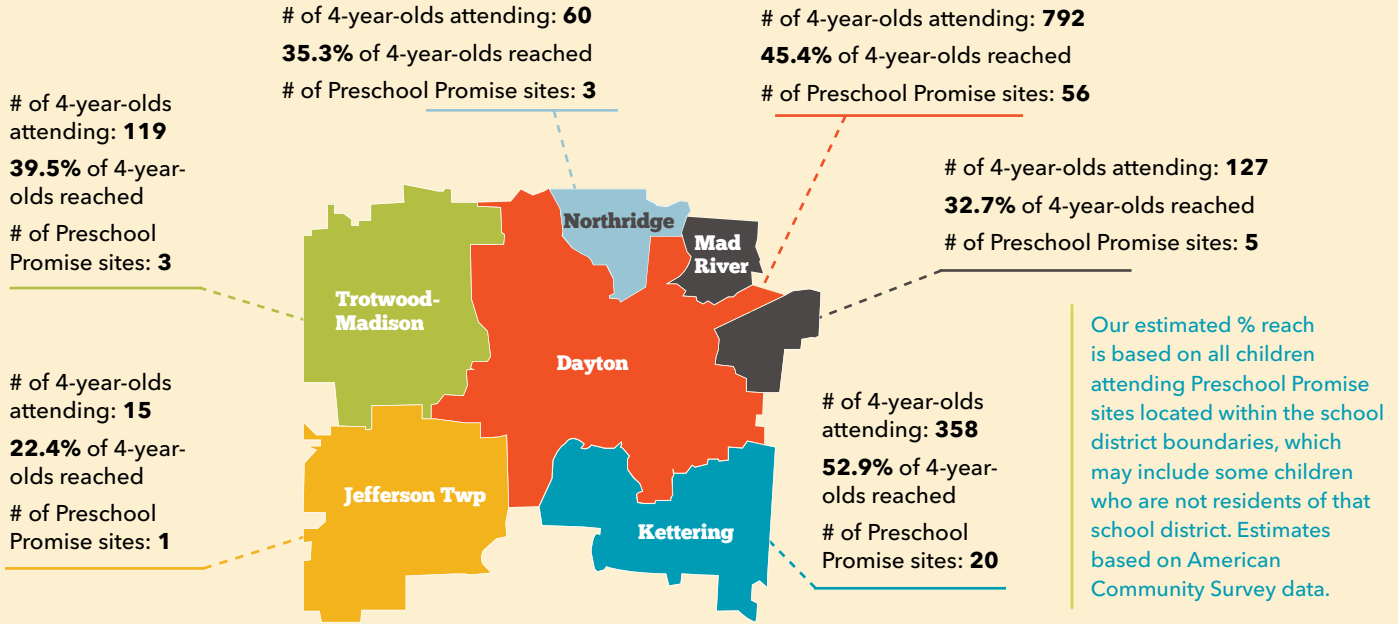
- **209 teachers have signed up for our "Promise Stipend"** that incentivizes them to participate in professional development, have strong attendance and use our free Books-of-the-Month in their classrooms.
- We're bringing together a work group of largely Black men who are **committed to helping us transform Preschool to better support Black boys.**

ASSISTING FAMILIES

- We've distributed **1,300 free tablets to families in Preschool Promise and Preschool Promise PLUS** to keep children learning at home.
- All tablets are pre-loaded with the popular ABC Mouse learning app; **over half of families have redeemed their free year-long subscription.**
- Families are **averaging a healthy 113 minutes per week** on their tablets.
- **We received \$160,000 in generous funding from the COVID-19 Relief Fund of Greater Dayton, PNC and The Frank M. Tait Foundation** to assist programs that have had to limit care due to a COVID-19 exposure — **16 sites and the families of 255 infants through school-age children have benefited.**
- **We're creating monthly learning videos for families to complement our free monthly Play Boxes.**
- We partnered with **Muse Machine, K12-TEJAS Art Gallery, Dayton Children's Hospital's Community Teaching Kitchen and WHIO-TV** to create activities for children and families.

We want to reach all young learners

4-year-olds attending Preschool Promise sites in the 2020-21 school year



292: An additional 292 4-year-olds are participating in Preschool Promise PLUS and are not attending a physical Preschool building due to COVID

Star-Rating Updates

Ohio has adopted a voluntary Star-Rating system known as *Step Up to Quality* that is designed to encourage programs to continuously improve. **Over 80% of our Preschool Promise children attend a 5-Star program.** Thanks to Montgomery County's investment, Preschool Promise is partnering with 4C for Children and others to assist all Montgomery County child care providers as they work to increase their Star Ratings. The State of Ohio is requiring all Type A and center-based child care providers that accept families enrolled in PFCC to earn at least a 3-Star Rating by July 1, 2025.

Montgomery County Child Care Providers' Star-Rating Status, December 2020

	Total child care sites with PFCC contracts	Total Star-Rated sites	Total highly-rated sites (3 to 5 Star)	Total sites expected to be highly-rated by June 2021
Centers & Type A	180	175 (97%)	99 (53%)	123 (68%)
Type B	72	69 (96%)	18 (25%)	32 (44%)

* **PFCC Contract** refers to those programs that have a Publicly Funded Child Care contract; they may serve low-income children whose families qualify for help paying for child care while a parent works or attends school.

** **Type A providers** offer child care for up to 12 children at any one time, with another qualified adult staff member, from a home.

*** **Type B providers** offer child care for up to 6 children at any one time from a home and are **not required to be 3-Star or higher by July 2025.**

We are working with additional providers to help them earn a 3-Star Rating or higher by June of 2021.

Thank you for your generous support of Preschool Promise!

