



preschool •  PROMISE

Born to Learn

2018-19 School Year Progress Report
December 2019

The 2018-19 school year was full of excitement and accomplishment for Preschool Promise!

This was our second year of being available throughout the City of Dayton, and we laid the foundation to expand in 2019-20 to **Jefferson Twp., Mad River Twp. and Trotwood**. Families from all across Montgomery County are choosing to enroll their young children in Preschool Promise's **75 participating programs**. We continue to expand our reach as we work toward our goal of 70% of 4-year-olds attending Preschool Promise sites.

We're especially proud to share that children who attended Preschool Promise programs were more ready for Kindergarten than children who did not. We also know that Preschool Promise training and coaching are helping more children get ready for Kindergarten.

As Preschool Promise has scaled up, we are intensely focused on 3 priorities:

- Encouraging and helping families to enroll their child in Preschool
- Providing high-impact, evidence-based professional development that ensures teachers are reaching every child in their classroom
- Closing the achievement gaps between children of color and their white peers, and also between girls and boys



Early childhood educators are immensely underappreciated and underpaid for the demanding work they do every day. As a result, our programs struggle to hire and keep well-educated teachers and staff. **To ensure every child gets the most from Preschool, we are investing in the professionals who are setting up children for success.**

Take a look at the following pages. You'll be impressed at all that Preschool Promise is doing to lift up quality Preschool programs, train teachers, encourage effective and culturally responsive practices and improve children's attendance.

Thank you for your generous support and for investing in young learners and their families.

Sincerely,

Deborah Feldman, President
Preschool Promise Board of Directors
CEO, Dayton Children's Hospital

Robyn Lightcap, Executive Director
Dayton-Montgomery County
Preschool Promise

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Vision

All Montgomery County children are ready for Kindergarten.

Mission

Preschool Promise ensures that children are ready for Kindergarten by equipping Preschools and families with exceptional support, coaching and education.

About Preschool Promise

Preschool Promise is making high quality Preschool more available and affordable to Montgomery County families with 4-year-olds. The initiative exists because of bold leadership by the Montgomery County Commission, the City of Dayton and numerous philanthropic organizations that are committed to building tomorrow's workforce by investing in today's children.

In all of its work, Preschool Promise is committed to fostering equity. Too many African-American and Appalachian young children are not being educated and served well because of implicit biases and practices that disadvantage them. They also are denied opportunities that lead to success, first in school and later as adults.

“**Thank you for all you did to make
Preschool Promise possible. It has been
such a blessing to my family.**”

3 pillars of success

Educating the community

- Our Outreach and Enrollment Team attended **150 events** to spread the word about Preschool Promise.
- We're identifying **hundreds of families** with children from Birth to 4 who want to know about Preschool's benefits.
- We targeted **Dayton and Trotwood** for **special outreach** in the wake of the devastating Memorial Day weekend tornadoes.

Expanding quality

- We provided over **3,000 hours of coaching** to Preschool Promise teachers and administrators.
- More than **250 teachers and administrators**, from **72 of 75 Preschool Promise sites**, participated in training.
- Over **80 teachers and staff** took implicit bias training, and **19 teachers** participated in a Culturally Responsive Teaching Professional Learning Community.
- We awarded **\$225,000 in stipends** to Preschool professionals for taking training outside of the work day.

Assisting families

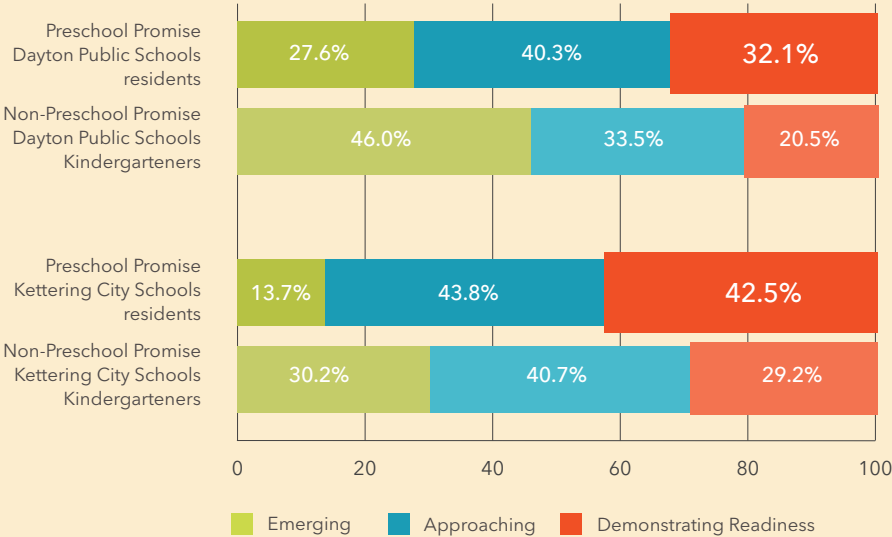
- More than **1,800 4-year-olds** attended Preschool Promise programs.
- **600 families** received 3 tips every week via text on how to help their children learn at home.
- Of the **904 families** who joined our STAR Attendance Program, **61%** reached our target attendance rate of 90% or better for the year.
- Thanks to Montgomery County, Preschool Promise is expanding to **Jefferson Twp., Mad River Twp., and Trotwood.**

Children in **Preschool Promise** are **more ready** for Kindergarten

57% more students in the **Dayton Public Schools District** who attended **Preschool Promise** sites **‘demonstrated’ readiness for Kindergarten** compared to those who did not attend **Preschool Promise** sites.

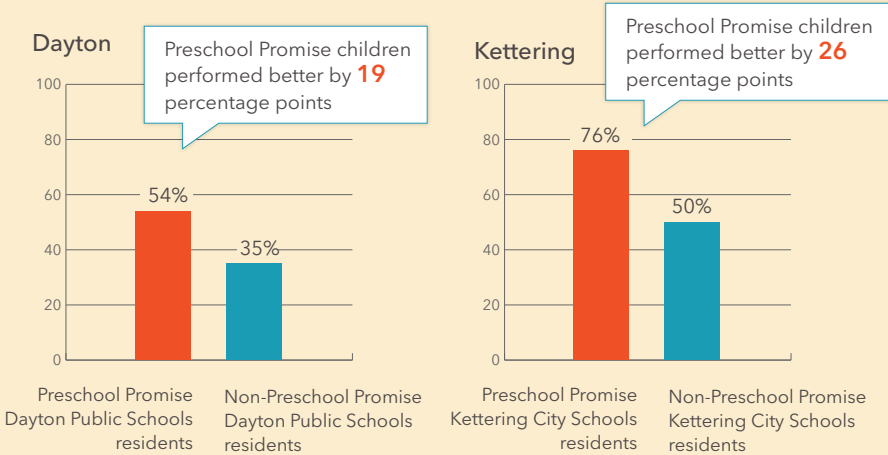
46% more students in the **Kettering City Schools District** who attended **Preschool Promise** sites **‘demonstrated’ readiness for Kindergarten** compared to those who did not attend **Preschool Promise** sites.

KRA bands for 2017-18 Preschool Promise Children compared to district overall



Ohio measures readiness for school by giving the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) to all children when they enter Kindergarten. Teachers evaluate children in language and literacy, and math; and assess their social skills, and physical development and well-being.

Preschool Promise children are more likely to be on track in the language & literacy subtest



Woodcock-Johnson IV Tests of ECAD (Early Cognitive and Academic Development)

Assesses children in language, literacy and math
Preschool Promise children exceeded expected gains in language and especially in math even after accounting for the natural progress that occurs as a child ages. They achieved the national average in language. They were slightly shy of expected gains in literacy.

MEFS (Minnesota Executive Function Scale)

Assesses children’s ability to remember rules, switch from one rule to another and focus only on relevant information
Preschool Promise children made slightly more than the expected gains compared to their peers nationally in executive function skills even after accounting for the natural progress that occurs as a child ages. But they’re scoring below the national average.

We have to close the gap

Preschool Promise children across all race and gender groups are making similar gains. But African-American students, and particularly African-American boys, are scoring below their white peers.

African-American boys made the biggest gains of any group in both language and math. But we must get better at teaching children of color as well as boys.

MEFS (Minnesota Executive Function Scale)

African-American girls and boys, and white girls and boys, all exceeded the expected gains even after accounting for the natural progress that occurs as a child ages. But only white girls met the national average.

Woodcock-Johnson IV Tests of ECAD (Early Cognitive and Academic Development)

In the language assessment, white girls and boys start and end the year above the national average, while African-American girls and boys start and end the year below the national average. **African-American boys made the biggest gains of any group in both language and math** even after accounting for the natural progress that occurs as a child ages.



Preschool Promise impacts 4,500 children from Birth to 5

Preschool Promise benefited 119 more 4-year-olds in 2018-19 over the previous school year.

Our **estimated reach** of 4-year-olds is based on all children attending the Preschool Promise site, which may include some who are not residents of that school district. Our goal is to increase our reach for all 4-year-olds in Montgomery County.

All children attending Preschool Promise sites benefit from the training and coaching provided to teachers and administrators. Preschool Promise providers also receive financial assistance to make their Preschool stronger, and they get help to improve their Star Rating under Ohio's *Step Up to Quality* initiative.

We increased the number of participating 4-year-olds in Dayton Preschool Promise by 7 percentage points, and the number in Kettering by 1 percentage point.

73% of 4-year-olds in Dayton attend Preschool Promise sites.
65% of 4-year-olds in Kettering.

Preschool Promise families have choices

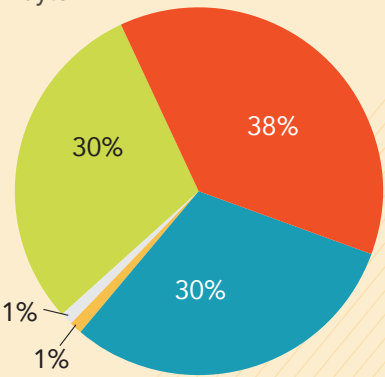
Families have different needs and preferences about where they send their child to Preschool. In the 2018-19 school year, **75 Preschool Promise sites** offered a variety of services and schedules.

Some have part-day programs or offer transportation. Some have longer hours or are full-year versus school-year programs. Some are associated with a school district, while others are community-based private programs.



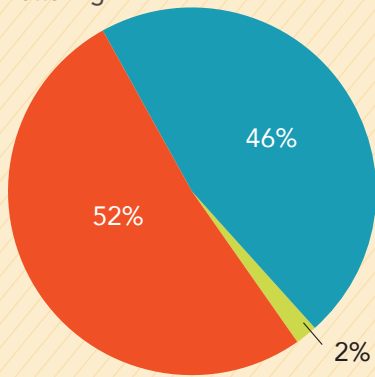
Preschool Promise supports all types of high quality programs

Dayton



- Community Childcare
- Dayton Public Schools
- MVCDC Head Start
- Catholic Schools
- Family Childcare

Kettering



- Kettering City Schools
- Community Childcare
- MVCDC Head Start
- Family Childcare

Preschool Promise partner sites

	City of Dayton	Kettering
Community Childcare/ODJFS Licensed	32	10
Public School/Ohio Department of Education Licensed	16	6
MVCDC Head Start	7	1
Family Childcare	2	0
Catholic	1	0
Total	58	17

Quality is paramount to getting children ready

Our work to improve quality is increasing children's readiness for Kindergarten. That's why we're investing half of our budget to support teachers.

Over the last 2 years:

- **Preschool Promise teachers' CLASS™ scores have risen in all 3 assessment areas.**
- **Preschool Promise teachers' implementation of Conscious Discipline has improved.**

Teachers who participated in training and coaching improved their CLASS™ scores and more effectively implemented Conscious Discipline. This is important because data show that children are more ready for Kindergarten if their Preschool teachers have high CLASS™ scores and if they implement Conscious Discipline consistently.

- Preschool Promise provided over **3,000 hours of coaching** to teachers and administrators.*
- More than **250 teachers and administrators**, from **72 of 75 Preschool Promise sites**, participated in our trainings.**
- **63 teachers** joined a Professional Learning Community regarding creating boy-friendly classrooms.
- We offered **7 intensive workshops** and a week-long **Conscious Discipline training**, and organized **10 Professional Learning Communities** that met over 9 months.
- Over **80 teachers and staff** attended implicit bias training; **19 teachers** participated in a Culturally Responsive Teaching Professional Learning Community.

* CLASS™ is a nationally recognized assessment that evaluates teacher-child interactions in 3 domains. Higher CLASS™ scores are linked with improved child outcomes in national research and our own data. An outside assessor evaluates all Preschool Promise teachers annually using the CLASS™.

** Conscious Discipline is a highly effective social-emotional learning and classroom management program that has been embraced by many Preschool Promise programs.



Preschool Programs keep improving

While Preschool Promise is supporting programs to go above and beyond requirements under Ohio's *Step Up to Quality* Star Rating initiative, we still require participating programs to earn and improve their Star Ratings. Our rationale is that, starting in 2020, families receiving state publicly subsidized childcare must choose a Preschool that has earned at least a 1-Star distinction under *Step Up*'s 1-Star to 5-Star rating system.

When we began scaling up in Fall 2017, **82%** of Preschool Promise children attended 3-Star to 5-Star programs. Today **91%** are in these higher quality programs.

My experience is perfect. There is great work going on in my child's classroom.

Preschool Promise Parent



In 2018-19, **22** programs increased their Star Rating



53 maintained their Star Rating, an important accomplishment especially for highly rated programs that met the most demanding standards

STAR Attendance builds great habits

Preschool Promise's innovative STAR Attendance program encourages families to make sure their children have a 90% or better attendance rate. Children miss out on learning when they're not at Preschool.

Good attendance in Preschool is habit-forming and can lead to better attendance in elementary school and beyond.

Dayton families receive \$25 on a reloadable debit card every month they meet the 90% benchmark, and they earn a \$100 bonus if their child has a 90% or better attendance rate for the year.

Preschool Promise made it possible for my child to attend a 5-Star Preschool. Thank you, Preschool Promise, for all your resources, support and concern.



61% of children participating in Preschool Promise had at least a 90% attendance rate for the year,

compared to only 58% last year.

However, most of that increase was from improvements in Kettering.

We also still have more work to do to support attendance for our African-American families.

Children who enroll in STAR Attendance are **more likely to meet the 90% mark.**

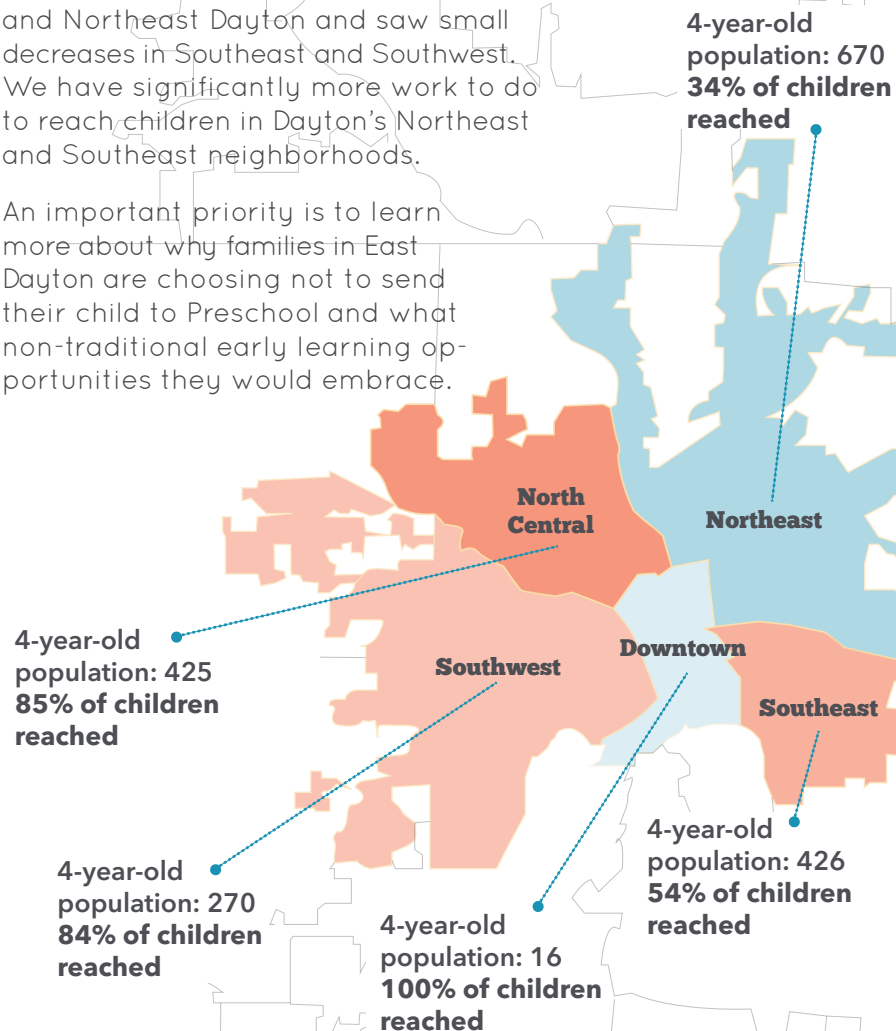


We're reaching children across neighborhoods

We're reaching 59% of 4-year-olds in the City of Dayton. Enrollment is strongest in North Central and Southwest Dayton.

We increased our reach in North Central and Northeast Dayton and saw small decreases in Southeast and Southwest. We have significantly more work to do to reach children in Dayton's Northeast and Southeast neighborhoods.

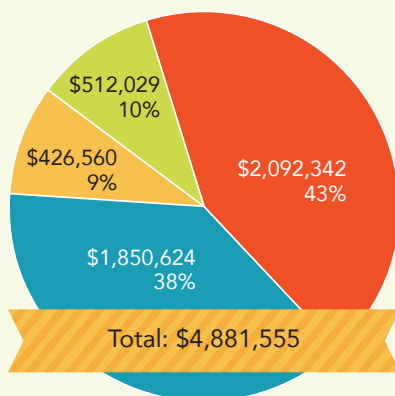
An important priority is to learn more about why families in East Dayton are choosing not to send their child to Preschool and what non-traditional early learning opportunities they would embrace.



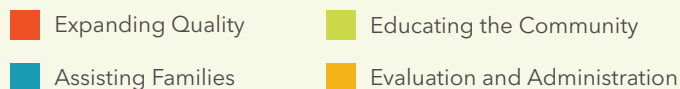
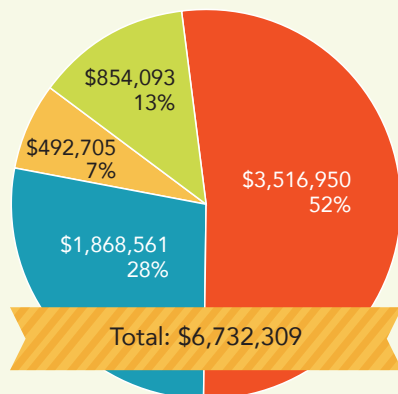
Improving quality is our biggest investment

Preschool Promise's Fiscal Year is from January to December, though the data in this report relates to the traditional school year. Fiscal Year 2018 was the first year that we received a full year's funding from the City of Dayton after voters, in 2016, generously approved Issue 9, providing sustained support for Preschool Promise.

Audited Financials
Fiscal Year 2018



Budgeted Fiscal Year 2019



Thanks to Montgomery County's increased investment in 2019-20, Preschool Promise is expanding to Jefferson Twp., Mad River Twp. and Trotwood.



Because we are leveraging state and federal investments to help families pay their Preschool tuition, we can focus our funding on teacher quality, which makes the most impact on children's learning. We're increasing our commitment to teacher training by offering more workshops and additional year-long Professional Learning Communities, and by providing more out-of-school professional development.

Our data show that when teachers are trained in Conscious Discipline and given help to improve on their CLASS™ evaluations, children score higher on Kindergarten readiness assessments.

Preschool Promise is filling a critical need by investing in the education of our community's dedicated Preschool professionals.

We are always hoping to grow from our experiences. Your work helps us do that.

Preschool Promise Teacher

Spending by key categories

	FY 2018	FY 2019
Quality Stipends to Providers	\$516,610	\$882,002
Tuition Assistance	\$1,213,855	\$1,153,200
STAR Attendance	\$170,834	\$258,700
Coaching/Training	\$846,885	\$1,326,971
Teacher Stipends	\$94,440	\$443,000

What we're learning

Supporting teachers in new ways is critical

- Children learn best when they have the same teacher for the entire year. But because of low pay, teacher turnover is too high at many programs. We are piloting a **Promise Stipend** for teachers working in the City of Dayton who remain in their position for the full school year.
- Conscious Discipline is changing the culture of classrooms, creating a climate that allows teachers to teach. We're offering even more Conscious Discipline training and coaching.
- We are bringing a nationally recognized expert on culturally responsive teaching to Dayton, reinforcing our focus on closing the racial achievement gap.
- We're syncing coaching with the specific training teachers are taking.
- The effective Passport to Kindergarten program, funded by PNC *Grow Up Great*, is now housed under Preschool Promise.

1 in 4 Lead Teachers at community childcare providers (where salaries are the lowest) left their positions during the 2018-19 school year. Teacher turnover directly correlates with pay. Lead teachers at these providers earn, on average, **just \$12 per hour.**

Although Preschool Promise is specific to our Preschool classrooms, the energy spreads throughout the program. Other teachers step up their game.

Preschool Promise Teacher

Supporting families in new ways is critical

- We're sending a specially selected free book to the home of every Preschool Promise child and to Preschool Promise classrooms each month. Teachers are reading the book to young learners, and families are encouraged to read it at home. Dayton Metro Library is providing questions to prompt great conversation, and training teachers on powerful ways to share the books.
- Building on our STAR Attendance initiative, we're launching an attendance campaign, complete with reminders, stickers and personalized data about each child's attendance. Families don't always keep track of their child's Preschool absences. We want families to know that missing just "2 days per month is 2 much" — that adds up to a month of lost learning over the school year.
- Families love text messages. Thanks to our partners at Ready4K, we're continuing to send 3 texts/per week to families about fun learning activities they can do at home.
- Every Preschool Promise child is receiving a free family pass to the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery on their birthday.
- Our Outreach Specialists are focusing their recruiting in small-group settings, and we're providing more hands-on enrollment help for families.



Board of Directors

Deborah Feldman, Chair
Dayton Children's Hospital, CEO

Anissa Lumpkin, Vice Chair
Air Force Research Laboratory,
Lead Program Manager

Jane McGee-Rafal,
Secretary/Treasurer
Retired School Superintendent,
Educator

Angeline Washington
Kornferry Futurestep,
City of Dayton Parent

PJ Brafford
Kettering Health Network,
Network Government
Relations Officer

Richard Clay Dixon
Former City of Dayton Mayor,
Activist with Miami Valley
Organizing Collaborative

Thank you to our generous 2018-19 funders



Thank you to our STAR Attendance supporters

CareSource Foundation

The Frank M. Tait Foundation

Dayton Children's Hospital

Premier Health

The Dayton Foundation

Shook Construction

Thank you to our key partners

4C for Children
Boonshoft Museum of Discovery

Dayton Metro Library
University of Dayton

Dayton Preschool Promise sites

ABC Child Development Center
Blue Book Schools, Inc.
Bombeck Family Learning Center
Creative Corner - Hoover
Creative Corner - Main
Creative Corner - McCall
Dayton Children's Child Care Center
Dayton Christian Center
Debbye's Darling Daycare and
Learning Center, Inc.
DPS - Belle Haven
DPS - Charity Adams
DPS - Cleveland
DPS - Eastmont
DPS - Edison
DPS - Fairview
DPS - Horace Mann
DPS - Kiser
DPS - Louise Troy
DPS - River's Edge
DPS - Rosa Parks
DPS - Ruskin
DPS - Valerie
DPS - Westwood
DPS - World of Wonder
Early Learning Tree Children's Center, LLC
Gloria Dei Montessori
Growing Seeds Child Care and
Learning Center
Immaculate Conception
Inspire Me Learning Academy

Jubilee
Kids Nest II
Lacretia Warren
Lincoln Academy Early Childhood Center
MVCDC - Dayton View
MVCDC - East Dayton Early Learning Center
MVCDC- Kings Highway
MVCDC- Miami View
MVCDC- Rosa Parks Preschool Academy
MVCDC - Stuart Patterson
MVCDC - Twin Towers
* MVCDC is the Dayton region's
Head Start provider.
Pat's Care Away From Home
Rainbow Years Child Care
Mini University - Miami Valley
Mini University - Montgomery County
Mini University - Sinclair
Northern Hills Child Care Center, Inc.
Playtime Nursery School
Rainbow Years Child Care
St. Anthony YMCA Preschool
Speedie Day Care
Stepping Stones Learning Center
Sweet As Honey Learning Center
The Word Youth Center
United Rehabilitation Services
West Park Academy
YMCA @ Grace
Your Children First Main Campus
Youthland Academy of Dayton

Kettering Preschool Promise sites

Christ United Methodist Church
Creative World of Learning - Kettering
Harmony Creek Child Care
Kettering Schools - Beavertown
Kettering Schools - Greenmont
Kettering Schools - Indian Riffle
Kettering Schools - John F. Kennedy
Kettering Schools - Kettering Early
Childhood Education Center

Kettering Schools - Oakview
Kiddie Kampus East
Kindercare Learning Center - Ebert
Kindercare Learning Center - Stroop
Miami Valley CDC - Moraine Meadows
South YMCA
Tender Loving Care
The Learning Tree
Wenzler Day Care and Learning Center, Inc.

Families love Preschool Promise

**“My coach
pushes me to
be a better
teacher.”**

4 out of 5 families ‘strongly agree’

Preschool is helping their child get ready for Kindergarten

4 out of 5 families ‘strongly agree’

they are happy with their child’s teacher

3 out of 4 families ‘strongly agree’

their Preschool respects their values and way of doing things

**“I’ve been most impressed
by how Preschool Promise
listens and values our opinions.”**



**preschool
PROMISE**

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