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## preschool PROMISE News

November 2020

***Even as Ohio's COVID-19 cases keep climbing, Preschools and child care programs continue to be there for children and families. Some children aren't returning to programs. But many families need their child to be in-person learning because they have to be on the job. Families who earn the least often don't have the luxury of working from home. They're stocking shelves at groceries, working at nursing homes and restaurants, driving delivery trucks and continuing to do other essential jobs.***

*Our community is so grateful to all early learning professionals who are keeping children safe and teaching and nurturing them under unprecedented circumstances.*

*We can't forget their heroic service!*



Robyn Lightcap  
Executive Director

### Preschool Promise PLUS families get free tablets

**Have you heard about our new initiative — Preschool Promise PLUS?** We're helping children keep learning at home as COVID-19 buffets our community. Any Montgomery County family whose 4-year-old is in their last year of Preschool before Kindergarten can join, regardless of whether their child is attending Preschool and even if they have selected a Preschool that does not partner with Preschool Promise.

Children receive a tablet (and a small data plan if needed); a year-long subscription to the fun learning app ABC Mouse; a Book-of-the-Month; a monthly Play Box with learning materials; and a monthly postcard with Kindergarten Readiness tips. **All these benefits are FREE!**

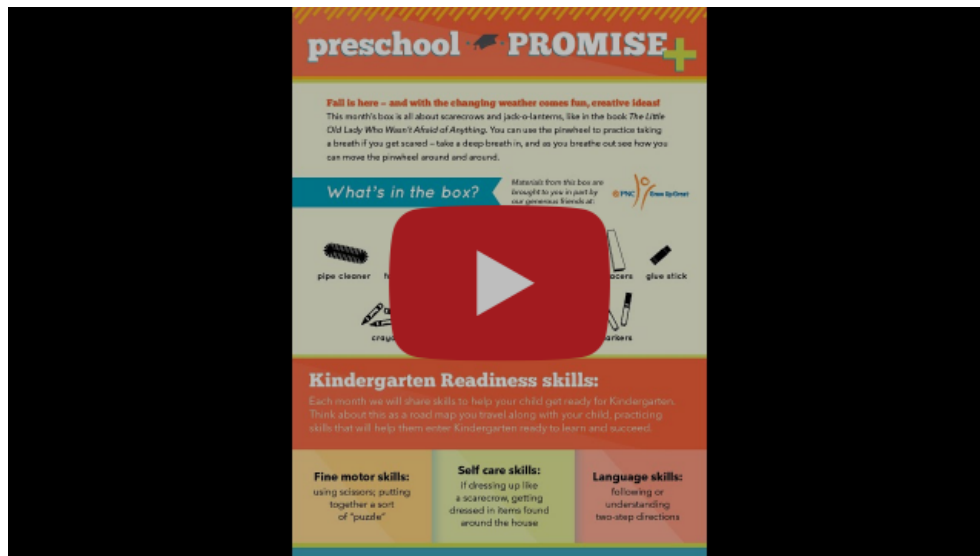
We have had tremendously frustrating delays in getting the tablets to our families. We're continuing to work hard with our vendors to get families their device, so they can start accessing ABC Mouse at home.

We have reached nearly 1,200 students already this year and we are able to help more families. Will you help us



As always, thank you to Montgomery County, the City of Dayton and our generous philanthropic supporters who are committed to getting all children ready for Kindergarten!

## Kids and families love Preschool Promise PLUS videos



Because so many children can't be in Preschool and families are struggling to keep their children engaged in learning, **we're creating short monthly videos with fun activities, sing-alongs and tips for helping children manage their frustration. The videos complement our Preschool Promise PLUS Play Boxes** and include instructions for using materials in the Play Box.

Check out October's video on our [website](#), [Facebook](#) page or [YouTube](#) channel. November's video will be posted Friday, Nov. 21.

## Early childhood professionals need our support!



**Groundwork Ohio**, which advocates for child care professionals and families and children experiencing poverty, **just released its new report *The Workforce Behind the Workforce – Advancing Ohio’s Child Care Profession***. The analysis is chock-full of data and insights about the challenges child care programs and early learning professionals face.

**Did you know that the average wage for child care educators in Ohio is only \$10.67/hour — about the same as fast-food cooks?** The responsibilities for these jobs are vastly different. We expect early learning professionals to keep children safe, nurture them and make sure they’re ready for Kindergarten, yet they’re not earning a fair or even living wage.

Debra Brathwaite, who is working with Preschool Promise to create educational pathways for early learning professionals, discussed the report at the virtual event where it was released. Other panelists included Ohio Senator Stephanie Kunze and Kimberly Tice, of the Ohio Association for the Education of Young Children.

As part of The Dayton Foundation’s **Del Mar Encore Fellows** initiative, Debra is doing amazing work to create affordable and quality education pathways for individuals who want to join this critical profession.

**Click here** to watch a 1-minute clip from the event.

## Thank you, candidates, for virtually visiting child care programs

Before this month’s election, multiple candidates took virtual tours of our partner programs to see up close all that child care professionals are doing to keep children and staff safe during the pandemic — and learn why it’s so crucial to support the industry with federal and state funding.

Representative Phil Plummer, State Representative-elect Willis Blackshear Jr., State Representative-elect Tom Young, and State Representative-elect Andrea White.



**Special thanks to Dayton Children's Hospital Child Care Center, On Purpose Academy and Mentoring Center, Good Shepherd Academy, Fairmont Presbyterian Preschool, and Wenzler Daycare and Learning Center for hosting the candidates.**

We look forward to working with all of our newly elected officials!

## Child care directors will join us November 12



Our next Child Care Directors Forum is Thursday, Nov. 12. **More than 50 leaders are registered for this important virtual meeting, which starts at 10 a.m.** They'll quickly get updates on grant funding, child care licensing, professional development and coaching opportunities, and more.

**Thank you for your generous support of Preschool Promise!**



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