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## preschool PROMISE News

August 2020

*Thank you for your interest in the Dayton-Montgomery County Preschool Promise!*

*COVID-19 is forcing all of us to re-think how we work and achieve our missions. At Preschool Promise, we, too, are innovating and pivoting. **We can't let even a pandemic stop us from helping ensure all children are fully ready to start Kindergarten on track!***

*We're privileged to work alongside so many amazing early learning professionals who are indeed essential workers. **They are not slowing down! And neither will we!***

*Gratefully,*



Robyn Lightcap  
Executive Director

### Preschools are ready to start the school year

In the face of COVID-19, it's hard to know what this school year will look like. **But Preschools are ready to go — and to adjust** as needed to serve their children and families.

Nearly 400 early learning professionals currently are taking part in Preschool Promise's virtual kickoff meetings for the upcoming year. They're eager to tell families about the perks that come with signing up for Preschool Promise. Among those benefits are:



- Children get a free book-of-the-month throughout the school year.
- Families receive a monthly postcard with parenting tips and ideas about making the most of their free book when reading at home.
- Parents get 3 free weekly text messages from our partner Ready4K about how to keep children learning at home.

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- Families can get help with tuition assistance to make a high quality preschool affordable.

**Families in Dayton, Jefferson Twp., Kettering, Mad River, Northridge and Trotwood can choose from 89 participating Preschool sites when they join Preschool Promise.**



We'll be adding new benefits to support children, families and providers as they adjust and cope with the pandemic, focusing on resources that help children learn at home.

**Supporting, training teachers is still our priority**

Preschool Promise's extensive teacher training has gone virtual in response to COVID-19, and teachers are embracing the dozens of offerings.

- More than 160 Preschool professionals joined our Understanding Trauma training.
- Nearly 150 teachers participated in summer professional development.



Meanwhile, we're training coaches to use **Swivl™** this Fall as a substitute for actually being in the classroom. A small stationary robot "swivels" to follow the teacher's voice and videotapes her instruction. Teachers and coaches debrief later. One teacher who has piloted this new tool shared that the robot works well with students because it's less distracting than having a visitor.

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Your Words — to name just a few.

## Preschool Promise families love reading

Our free book-of-the-month initiative is getting great reviews from families. Children love having their own copy of *Llama Llama Red Pajama*, *Maisy Goes to Preschool*, *Tracks in the Snow* and *I Want to be a Doctor* — all titles that were hand-picked for them by Dayton Metro Library's Early Literacy Specialist Kathleen Moore.



Our parent survey found that more than 90% of Preschool Promise parents read the book to their children at least once, with most families reading the book three times or more each month.

## Will you support our amazing early educators?

COVID-19 has exposed just how fragile the early learning and child care industry is.

You can help educate lawmakers about the critical importance of child care to our economy and families by sharing your support for providing emergency federal financial aid.

Groundwork Ohio is making it easy to contact your representatives in Congress with a ready-made message. Of course, you can add your own story and comments, too. Weighing in takes just 90 seconds — [click here](#).

We're doing our part, too, to help policy makers understand that child care is on the brink. We've participated in round table discussions with business leaders and the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce; U.S. Sen. Rob Portman, Congressman Mike Turner and Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley. We've joined webinars with state policy leaders, including Groundwork Ohio and The Ohio State University's Crane Center for Early Childhood Research and Policy.

In short, we're taking every opportunity to lift up child care programs and professionals who are critical to keeping our economy open and our children thriving!

**CHILD CARE  
ACTION  
ALERT**



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