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preschool · PROMISE News

September 2020

We're supporting children who can't be at Preschool

Because of COVID-19, many families aren't ready to send their child to Preschool, and some children may not be able to attend regularly this year. Though children benefit the most from attending Preschool in-person, we don't want kiddos to fall behind.

To keep children learning at home, **we've created Preschool Promise PLUS.**

ALL 4-year-old children who reside in Montgomery County — regardless of where they live AND even if they are not actually attending one of our 85 Preschool Promise partner sites — may join.

When families join Preschool Promise PLUS, they and their child will receive:

- **Free Tablet:** We'll send all families a tablet to help their child learn at home. Families who don't have Internet access will get a small data plan. The tablet will be theirs to keep, and controls will be enabled to limit usage to educational uses.
- **ABC Mouse Subscription:** ABC Mouse, an easy-to-use online learning platform, will be pre-loaded on the tablet, and families will receive a free, year-long subscription. ABC Mouse includes fun, interactive games designed to improve children's language and math skills.
- **Book-of-the-month:** We'll mail all families a carefully selected book each month to encourage reading together.
- **Play Boxes:** Every month children will receive a box with materials and activities to do at home that will help them practice the skills they'll need in Kindergarten.
- **Monthly Postcard:** Families will receive a monthly postcard with tips to help their child get ready for Kindergarten.
- **Tuition Assistance:** As always, those attending a Preschool Promise site may be eligible to receive financial help to offset the cost of their tuition.
- **Birthday Card:** Children will get a birthday card and a special surprise.



To join Preschool Promise Plus, a **child must turn 4 by September 30, 2020.**

COVID-19 continues to challenge Preschools and child care programs

Child care centers and Preschools have been tremendously challenged by COVID-19. Many are continuing to operate under enrollment limits that were imposed last Spring to keep everyone safe. Many child care professionals are reluctant to teach in full classrooms — often they have personal health issues or someone in their home is at-risk.



But programs cannot operate at reduced capacity and stay financially sound. And many programs have had to start waiting lists! Their families are going back to work and need child care — a need made even more overwhelming because so many schools are only providing remote learning. Essential workers who have to be at their work sites need child care to keep their young children AND school-age children safe and learning!

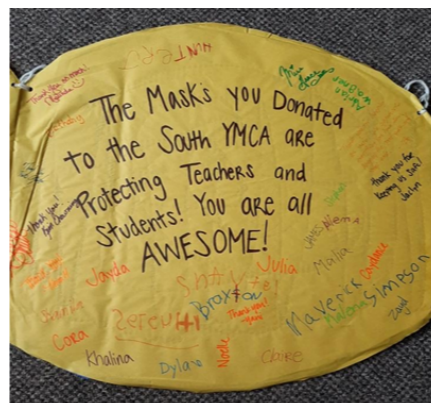
We're continuing to advocate for child care programs and professionals — they need pass-through funding that Congress has appropriated for small businesses and the child care industry. They also need philanthropic support — though that private help can't possibly meet their crushing financial challenges. Just the cost of personal protective equipment — including gloves, masks and sanitizing products — is a financial drain on low-margin businesses.

In late August, Ohio issued new rules allowing for temporary stand-alone child care programs to open for school-age children who are engaged in remote learning. For low-income families, paying for this care will be impossible — and many middle-income families will struggle to afford this new child care expense. Only families earning less than 130% of the Federal Poverty Level and who are eligible for Publicly Funded Child Care can get financial help.

American Academy of Pediatrics recommends face coverings for children 2 and up

The **American Academy of Pediatrics recommends** that all children 2 and older wear face masks, including at child care, to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Even children with underlying conditions — except in rare situations — can safely wear masks, the pediatric group said.

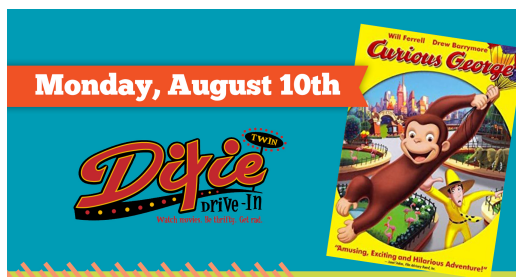
Ohio requires all K-12 children to wear masks when they're attending school in-person.



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Recruiting new families looks different during COVID-19

In August, we welcomed families to a free night at the drive-in. While practicing social distancing, we got to share about Preschool Promise PLUS, and families watched *Curious George* on the big screen at the Dixie Twin Drive-In. More than 140 people came out and were treated to free popcorn and beverages. It was great seeing everyone, even from a distance!



Preschool Promise has moved

If you're stopping by, we're now located at 2251 Timber Lane, Dayton, OH 45414. Our telephone number remains (937) 329-2700.

Thank you for your generous support of Preschool Promise!



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