

It's gonna be May

We have great news! Families can officially apply to be a part of Preschool Promise for the 2023-2024 school year! Applications can be found **on our website**.

Speaking of news, we have seen an uptick in local news coverage detailing the child care crisis, including this in-depth series of reports from the Dayton Daily News:

- **How the child care crisis' holds back children, parents, and the economy**
- **Why the 'workforce behind the workforce' is challenged by low pay even as child care becomes less affordable**
- **Even though new public money is helping the child care crisis; advocates say more is needed**

We also contributed to **this piece** from the Dayton Business Journal about the current state of our schools.

This coverage is more important than ever, as the Ohio House passed the Budget Bill this week. While we were encouraged to see \$60 million included for early education and child care supports, it was disappointing that the \$150 million initially included for Ohio's youngest children in Gov. Dewine's budget has been cut. This bill is currently being debated in the Senate and reaching out to policymakers about prioritizing Ohio's children and families is still incredibly important.

We are proud to partner with Groundwork Ohio to emphasize the importance of investments in child care in the state budget. If you are an early childhood professional, please sign your name to **this digital letter**. Show policymakers that you and many others call for critical investments in young children and the programs that support them.

The demand for high quality early child care continues to grow and more kids enroll in Preschool Promise each year. We feel fortunate to have the support of our partners at Montgomery County and the City of Dayton and know that continuing our work allows families to thrive when Preschool might not otherwise be affordable.

Thank you for helping us support young children and families in our community.



Robyn Lightcap
Executive Director

We've got the rhythm

Watch your mailbox for the May Book-of-the-Month, I've Got the Rhythm by Connie Schofield-Morrison! This book will have you moving and grooving, just like the little girl in the book, who hears rhythm all

around her - from butterflies to street performers, to ice cream sellers - everything is musical! She sniffs, snaps, and shakes her way into the heart of the beat, finally busting out in an impromptu dance, which all the kids in the park join in on! We hope this book has you finding joyous, musical moments in your daily life.



Applications are open!

It is hard to believe that the 2022-2023 school year is coming to a close and summer is on the horizon! Applications are now open **on our website** and you can also find a list **here** of our partner Preschools. We work with schools in West Carrollton, Dayton, Kettering, Mad River, Northridge, Trotwood-Madison, Huber Heights, and Jefferson Township. For questions about enrollment please call or text (937) 329-2700 or email questions@preschoolpromise.org.



April was EXCELLENT!

The Second Annual Excellence in Early Education Celebration on April 20th was an exciting night full of joy, laughter, and appreciation. With the help of our sponsors, PNC Bank, Dayton Children's Hospital, and Insignia we were able to ring in the evening with almost 400 teachers from our partner schools. We awarded 11 educators and one community partner with cash and prizes. Early educators rarely receive the recognition they deserve and we believe it is important to celebrate them every day and acknowledge their vital role in our community. If you attended the event, **we would love your feedback!** Read more about the event in **this article** from the Dayton Daily News.

Want to make a difference?

Preschool Promise is seeking energetic Black male leaders to share their talents and expertise in Preschool classrooms as part of our "Cultivating Black Boy Brilliance" initiative. We value equity in the



classroom and know that having Black teachers and role models is integral to providing opportunities for Black boys to succeed. If you are interested in learning more, please reach out to Christopher.james@preschoolpromise.org or fill out an [application to participate](#).

What's next?

Our good friends at Dayton Metro Library have started a free Kindergarten Club for the families of children who are entering Kindergarten in fall 2023. Children and caregivers participate together in a variety of fun activities designed to help kiddos prepare for Kindergarten. Tips for adults, early literacy activities, social and emotional learning opportunities, and skills that set children up to be successful students will be the focus.

This program is designed using evidence-based approaches to assist parents and caregivers in ways they can help young children develop skills they'll need for school success. [Find out more here.](#)



Thank you for your generous support of Preschool Promise!

