

October 31, 2023

**Parent advisors**  
**Worry not**  
**Stepping up**  
**Playing is learning**  
**Equity**

**We did the mash! We did the Preschool mash.**



This month, Gov. DeWine's office announced the creation of the Ohio PROMISE program, a new initiative focused on increasing access to quality child care and support services for children with special needs. **Preschool Promise believes that every child deserves access to high quality early education** and we are excited about this new initiative and the opportunities that it will provide for children with special needs and their families.

A part of this program involves training our educators and administrators as they receive the Professional Early Childhood Inclusion Credential (PEPIC). This credential was created to raise the level of awareness, knowledge, competency, and confidence of professionals attending to the needs of children with disabilities, their families, and creating an inclusive environment for all children. Child care centers can also become certified to work with children with special needs through the following designations:

- **Provider Credential:** The Professional Early Childhood Inclusion Credential will provide training and support for early childhood educators to create an inclusive environment for all children by increasing their knowledge, competency, and confidence when working with children with special needs and their families
- **New Program Designation:** The Inclusive Child Care Program designation will signal to parents using Ohio's child care search tool that an educator in that program has earned their Professional Early Childhood Inclusion Credential.
- **New Center of Excellence:** The Early Childhood Inclusion Center of Excellence will provide access to materials and equipment for childcare professionals and the families they serve as well as training and technical assistance to early childhood and education professionals.
- **New Scholarship Pilot Program:** A new pilot scholarship program for children with special needs from families living at or below 200% of the federal poverty level and attending a program that has achieved the Inclusive Child Care Program designation.

This new program is a good start. We know that parents of children with special needs want more options to help their children thrive. Thank you for continuing to advocate for more investment in special needs child care!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robyn".

Robyn Lightcap  
Executive Director



## Parent advisors

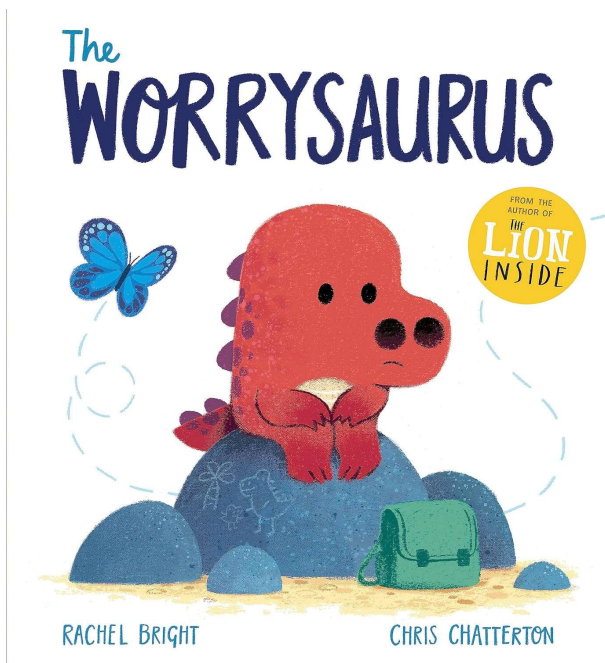
Thank you to Jubilee Childcare Center for hosting our recent Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) photoshoot and meeting.

The PAC is an important group that is made up of parents and caregivers whose children are enrolled in Preschool Promise partner schools and their feedback is instrumental in helping us to continue to improve our programs and community impact.



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## Every little thing is gonna be alright



The November Book-of-the-Month, *The Worrysaurus*, shows kids that we all worry sometimes and illustrates how working through big feelings helps children adapt to their environment and gives a voice to what they feel inside.

A large part of a child's early education includes their social-emotional development and this book is a great illustration of how kiddos can recognize and work through their feelings.

Reading books with children is incredibly important for a child's brain development! Find book related questions and reading tips [here](#)

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## Stepping up to reading

Our team was excited to present our new POP spot, and to gather with the City of Dayton, the FBICCAAA, and local artists to announce a new book box at Stepping Stones in Dayton.

Preschool Promise also has a book box at this location and we know that Audrey and the Stepping Stones team advocate for early literacy and are working with young readers to become future leaders!



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## Playing is learning



Children who are enrolled in Preschool Promise received their Fall Play Kit this month and it was full of items to play with at home as they focused on the core 4 pillars of 'connecting and feeling.' Our kits are mailed out quarterly and feature fun activities like the pinwheel pictured here, used for kids to take deep calming breaths as they work through their frustrations - just like Worrysaurus!

Other resources for both kiddos and parents included mental health bingo, a feelings card, a fidget ball, and more.

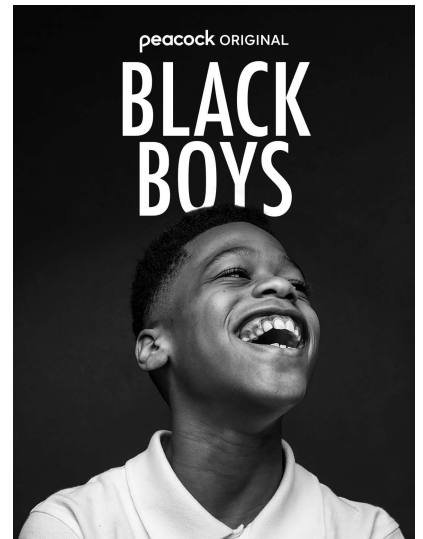
Do you have a preschooler who would love to learn through play at home? **Sign up for our program!**

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## Equity in Education

Preschool Promise partnered with Never Whisper Justice to host a series of community screenings for the award-winning film, "Black Boys," To date, **nearly 1,000 community members, educators, and advocates have seen the film** as a part of this project, with a goal of advancing equity in education and provide insight into what we can all do to make sure Black boys are celebrated, valued, and thriving in their earliest years.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for a screening and supported this project. Preschool Promise will continue to help create early learning environments where every single child is ready for Kindergarten.



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

