



# preschool PROMISE

## Quarterly Highlights March 2021

Though COVID-19 infections have been dropping and more children have returned to Preschool and child care, providers are still struggling. **While they're permitted to go back to pre-COVID-19 capacity levels, many can't hire enough staff to serve that number of children. The average hourly pay for early learning educators is less than \$11/hour.**

**No matter how much they love working with young children, many early educators can't afford to stay in the field.**

With a few exceptions, Montgomery County's child care and Preschool providers financially survived the pandemic, thanks, in part, to the Payroll Protection Plan and other federal dollars that Montgomery County has expeditiously passed on. But they're staying afloat by continuing to pay their staff poverty-level wages. **The business model for child care and Preschool is broken, and it just keeps getting harder to provide quality early learning for young children.**

There are fewer child care "seats" in our community for young children, but among the

reasons we don't have a capacity crisis is that some families — especially moms — dropped out of the workforce during the pandemic and haven't returned; some parents had to patch together child care when they weren't comfortable sending their children to in-person learning, and they're still relying on those arrangements; other families are continuing to work from home and keeping their children with them.

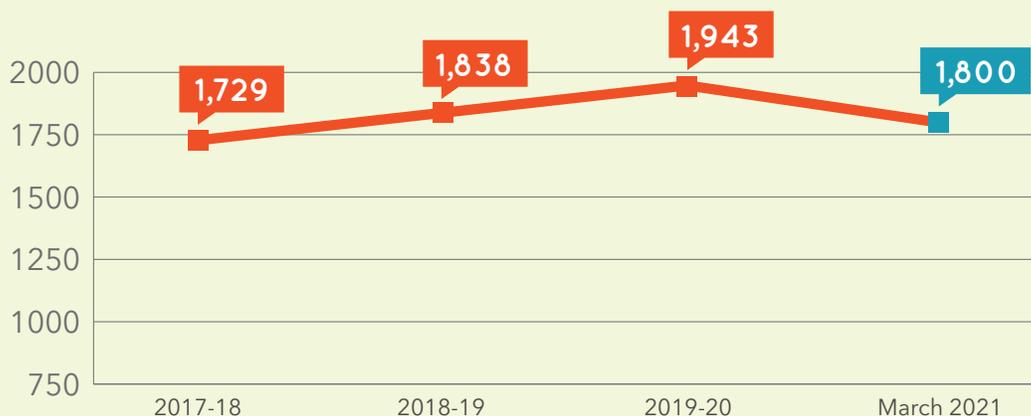
**All of this is to say, the "shake-out" from the pandemic isn't over!**

On a happy note, we're welcoming children to the Preschool Promise Family for the 2021-22 school year. We're also making new outreach efforts to families with children who aren't yet in their last year of Preschool before Kindergarten, so they'll be aware of the great benefits Preschool Promise provides when their child turns 4.

Thank you, as always, for your generous support of Montgomery County's young learners!

### COVID-19 continues to impact Preschool Promise enrollment

4-year-olds attending Preschool Promise sites/Enrolled in Preschool Promise PLUS



\* In 2019-20, Preschool Promise expanded from Dayton and Kettering to Jefferson Twp., Mad River and Trotwood-Madison school districts.

In 2020-21, Preschool Promise expanded to Northridge.

# How we're doing on the 3 pillars of the Preschool Promise

*"I am humbled and forever grateful (to my Preschool Promise classroom coaches)! ... I truly appreciate their determination. ... I look forward to continuing working with them and accomplishing even higher goals!" — Program Director who earned a 4-Star Quality Rating*

## EDUCATING THE COMMUNITY

- Because of COVID-19, we haven't been able to connect with families in person, but we conducted a phone-a-thon and **reached 860 families to offer support.**
- **Foodbanks continue to be an excellent opportunity to meet families.** God's Grace Free Store in Northridge is providing outreach opportunities to attend COVID-safe, outdoor events.
- **We organized pop-up events in celebration of Black History Month and Pi Day on March 14.** We also held events at Dayton Metro Library locations during food giveaways. We shared information about Preschool Promise and gave children a free book.

## EXPANDING QUALITY

- **350** early childhood educators have enrolled in at least one of our **3 dozen** professional development opportunities.
- **236** teachers are participating in 1 of **16** year-long professional learning communities; **265** teachers joined in one of **13** workshops; and **130** took an X-treme training.
- Programs received over **\$175,000** in Preschool Promise "Quality Dollars" to upgrade their curriculum, purchase supplies and improve their classrooms.
- We awarded nearly **\$63,000** to teachers for participating in professional development outside of the workday, and teachers collectively earned nearly **2,500 hours** toward their required continuing ed requirements.
- Our work group of largely Black men who are sharing ideas about **how to transform Preschool for Black boys is up and running.**



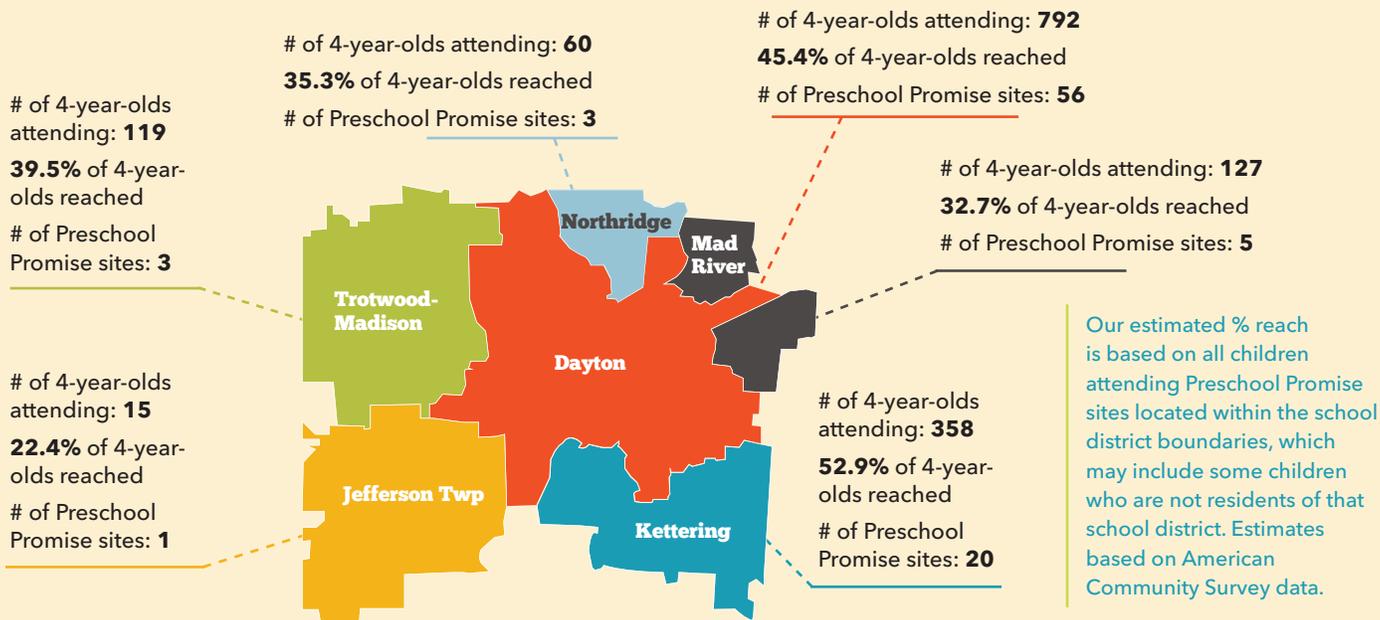
- Even with COVID-19, **teachers are still getting personalized coaching, thanks to Swivl robots,** a technology that allows teachers to videotape themselves in the classroom. Coaches review the videotape and provide personalized feedback on their instruction.

## ASSISTING FAMILIES

- We provided over **1,300 free tablets preloaded with popular learning apps** like ABC Mouse to families during the pandemic. Usage reports show that other frequently used apps are Google Classroom and Zoom, suggesting older siblings are using the tablets for their learning, too.
- **We're mailing over 1,400 Play Boxes with engaging learning activities** to children each month.
- Preschool Promise is **expanding to 100 sites** for the 2021-2022 school year.
- **STAR Attendance**, an initiative where we reward families living in Dayton or the Dayton Public School district for their child's consistent Preschool attendance, is returning this year.
- We're growing our Preschool Promise Family by **engaging parents with children under age 4.** Families who sign up get texts and quarterly postcards with age-appropriate learning tips, a one-day family pass to the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery and more.

# We want to reach all young learners

## 4-year-olds attending Preschool Promise sites in the 2020-21 school year



**292:** An additional 292 4-year-olds are participating in Preschool Promise PLUS and are not attending a physical Preschool building due to COVID

## Star-Rating Updates

Ohio has adopted a voluntary Star-Rating system known as *Step Up to Quality* that is designed to encourage programs to continuously improve. **Over 80% of our Preschool Promise children attend a 5-Star program.** Thanks to Montgomery County's investment, Preschool Promise is partnering with 4C for Children and others to assist all Montgomery County child care providers as they work to increase their Star Ratings.

### Montgomery County Child Care Providers' Star-Rating Status, March 2021

	Total child care sites with PFCC contracts	Total Star-Rated sites	Total highly-rated sites (3- to 5-Star)	Total sites expected to be highly-rated by June 2021
<b>Centers &amp; Type A</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>166 (95%)</b>	<b>96 (44%)</b>	<b>108 (50%)</b>
<b>Type B</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>61 (91%)</b>	<b>16 (24%)</b>	<b>22 (33%)</b>

\* **PFCC Contract** refers to those programs that have a Publicly Funded Child Care contract; they may serve low-income children whose families qualify for help paying for child care while a parent works or attends school.

\*\* **Type A providers** offer child care for up to 12 children at any one time, with another qualified adult staff member, from a home.

\*\*\* **Type B providers** offer child care for up to 6 children at any one time from a home.

We are working with additional providers to help them earn a 3-Star Rating or higher by June of 2021.

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

