

Menu of Services

2023-2024



Supporting you
TO BE YOUR BEST

preschool
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PROMISE

because the first 5 years matter

Thank you for all you do for young children and their families and for committing to be your best.

Every year we analyze our data about children’s progress and success. We’re learning that children make the most gains when their teachers join a year-long Professional Learning Community and receive coaching. Seeing that trend in our data and because children’s readiness scores have dropped in the wake of COVID-19, we’re making some important changes in how we’re approaching professional development. All the changes are designed to support you and to prepare our children for Kindergarten. We’ve summarized them on the adjacent page, and more details are on the following pages.

This year you’re also going to hear a lot about our new Core 4 strategies, which were created to help families and teachers better understand what it means to be ready for Kindergarten. Our free quarterly Play Kits and Books-of-the-Month will focus on developing and reinforcing these skills and will support your great work in the classroom.

We are excited to announce that Latoria Marcellus is our new Senior Director of Education Strategy. Many of you know Latoria from Conscious Discipline or when she previously worked at Preschool Promise. Please join us as we welcome back Latoria!

It’s going to be an exciting year, and we can’t wait to learn with you!

Gratefully,



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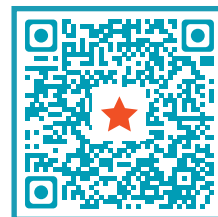
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Check out these important changes!

Our research shows that children make the most gains when their teachers participate in a year-long Professional Learning Community. Teachers constantly tell us that they get a great deal out of PLCs because they have a chance to dive deeply into content and they appreciate having concepts reinforced over a period of months.

We're following the data, and we hear you! Here are a few changes happening this year:

- We are reducing the amount of the Teacher Promise Stipend. After reviewing our data, we know that it is time to pivot. This change will allow us to divert funds to support the initiatives that we believe will move the needle for Kindergarten readiness. This year's Teacher Promise Stipend will be awarded to participants who complete the requirements. Scan the QR code for more information.



Possible earnings are as follows:

- Public School Teachers \$400
 - MVCDC \$750
 - Center-Based Sites and Family Child Care \$1000
- We will no longer host The President's Day professional development, workshops or X-treme trainings. Instead, we'll focus on providing year-long Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), "special event" trainings, and on providing one-on-one coaching with increased stipends. We know that workshops are important, and we encourage you to look to 4C for Children and other OCCRRRA training options for shorter learning opportunities.
 - We'll be offering stipends for PLCs and coaching and other special training events this year. Stipends will be awarded for attendance at trainings and for implementing what you're learning in your classroom. Our Quality Education Team will be working right alongside you, helping you every step of the way.
 - Our Promise Scholars program will focus on teachers earning their CDA or Associate's degree and Bachelor's degree in early childhood education at specified Universities.



EQUITY is front and center in all we do

Preschool Promise is committed to promoting equity in all our work. Our goal is to ensure that all children, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, abilities or socioeconomic status, are fully ready to learn when they start Kindergarten. Providers that join Preschool Promise must be committed to ensuring all children are provided with the resources and education they need to reach their potential.

Our strategies to promote equity include:

- Ensuring our team and all Preschool Promise Coaches are trained on diversity, equity and inclusion best practices
- Providing culturally responsive teacher training to Preschool Promise program administrators and classroom teachers that addresses how biases limit children's success and can create an unhealthy classroom culture
- Consulting experts to craft policies and strategies that do not, even inadvertently, put Preschool Promise children and their families at a disadvantage or negatively impact Preschool programs
- Consistently reviewing best practices on using assessments and data to support student achievement

BLACK BOY BRILLIANCE is transforming Preschool

Too often Black boys don't feel seen and heard in school - including in Preschool. We're committed to ensuring they learn to love school in the early years and to bridging the gap in their Kindergarten readiness skills with other children.

That's why we adopted Black Boy Brilliance, an initiative grounded in research and conversations with Black families and early educators, designed to help transform early learning for Black boys. Currently, we're working with Black men to serve as Ambassadors in Preschool classrooms, so all children have positive Black role models, and we're also inviting Black high-school students to be Youth Ambassadors, exposing them to career opportunities in early childhood education.

This year we're hosting FREE screenings of an award-winning documentary, *Black Boys*, to prompt important conversations and an understanding of the Black male experience. Due to the importance of the topic, we are offering a \$100 stipend to all teachers and administrators (serving children from birth to Preschool) at our Preschool Promise sites who view this documentary. Register to attend a movie screening at preschoolpromise.org/blackboysmovieshowings.

Join the Black Boy Brilliance movement! Scan QR code or visit www.PreschoolPromise.org/TransformingPreschoolforBlackBoys to find out more.



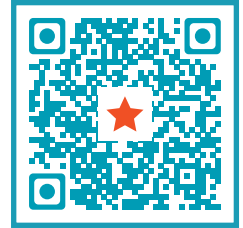
Join the Promise Scholars Program, GRADUATE DEBT-FREE

Our Promise Scholars program allows Preschool Promise teachers and staff to attend a local college or university to get a degree or credential – and graduate debt-free.

In the program's first year, 50 teachers earned their CDA, Associate's or Bachelor's degree. Currently, we're helping 160 teachers to continue their education.

We provide financial aid advice and can help you get all the scholarships and grants you're eligible to receive. We'll walk you through the process of choosing the right college and courses. We even can help with out-of-pocket expenses for computers, books and other incidentals.

Scan QR code or visit www.preschoolpromise.org/scholars to learn more.



WE SUPPORT FAMILIES with children younger than 5

Reaching for Readiness is a new program at Preschool Promise that partners a certified Parent Educator with families of children from birth to age 5, supporting them in getting their child ready for Kindergarten. The Parent Educator shares ideas and tools to promote positive parenting, enhance their child's health and development and build a strong foundation for their child's future.

Reaching for Readiness is open to Montgomery County parents, foster/kinship parents, grandparents and anyone else caring for children ages 0-5. Priority is given to children ages 2-5.

Services include: Assessments and screenings, home visits with a Parent Educator and connections to community resources and community group activities.



SAVE TIME! Check out the new Provider Portal

For directors and administrators-the new Provider Portal is designed to save you time and make it easy to access Preschool Promise's database. Once logged in, you'll see a dashboard with important information about professional development trainings for the week, upcoming events and more.

There's also a roster where you can see a list of families who have applied to join Preschool Promise and have named your site as where they want their child to attend. Information in the roster includes but is not limited to:

- Date a family applied
- Current status
- The reason an application is pending
- PFCC/Title20 information on file
- Tuition approval
- Enrollment status

In addition:

- The Attendance page lets you enter your monthly attendance directly into Preschool Promise's database.
- The Payments page allows you to see the breakdown of tuition assistance for your children enrolled at your site on a monthly basis.
- The Documents page allows you to download approval letters from your children for their records.
- The Provider Profile page provides your contact information that we have on file; the amount of Quality Dollars granted and the balance remaining; and Teacher/ Classroom information. You can update teacher assignments here.



Get your Preschool Promise t-shirt ...AND MORE!

Are you a fan of our Preschool Promise t-shirts?
We have great news!

We have partnered with Insignia to create an online store for teachers, filled with Preschool Promise attire. You can get everything from cardigans to hats.

Join us in representing Preschool Promise in the community. Visit PreschoolPromise.org to shop today!



Speaking of t-shirts

You're going to love this year's Preschool Promise t-shirt! They were available for pickup at our August Season Opener, but if you were unable to attend, you can also request one by contacting Anne-Lisa.Thuot@PreschoolPromise.org

Preschool Promise's FIFTEENTH ANNUAL READINESS SUMMIT

The 2024 Readiness Summit is on the books

The 15th Annual Readiness Summit is on March 1, 2024, at Sinclair College. We'll bring together educators, advocates and community leaders to learn about new ways to connect with children.

Stay tuned for more info!

Celebrate with us at the Excellence in Early Education Celebration

Mark your calendars for the Third Annual Excellence in Early Education Celebration on April 25, 2024, at Carillon Historical Park. This popular event celebrates educators in our partner schools and is a fun way to honor the hard work that goes into early education. We think that early educators should be celebrated every day!



GET NEW SUPPLIES for your classroom

Each school year, we provide funding to Preschool Promise classrooms for new materials. For 2023-2024, we are increasing the allocation to \$400, and items may be ordered through Lakeshore Learning or Conscious Discipline.

Lead Teachers will receive details by October 1 and should work with other teachers in the classroom to purchase items to help meet their continuous improvement goals.

Orders must be placed no later than **March 31, 2024**. Materials will be shipped to the program's address. Contact catherine.rauch@preschoolpromise.org for more info.

Watch for your FREE Books-of-the-Month

A committee of teachers, partners and parents carefully selects the books with an eye toward representing diverse subjects and characters. We encourage teachers to use these free resources to create monthly lesson plans and to read the books in their classrooms. Use serve-and-return conversations, so students can repeat at home what they're hearing and learning at school.

 <p>September 2023</p>	 <p>October 2023</p>	 <p>November 2023</p>	 <p>December 2023</p>
 <p>January 2024</p>	 <p>February 2024</p>	 <p>March 2024</p>	 <p>April 2024</p>
 <p>May 2024</p>	 <p>June 2024</p>	 <p>July 2024</p>	 <p>August 2024</p>

*Books are subject to change based on availability

LEARN WITH US in a Professional Learning Community

To ensure all Montgomery County children are ready for Kindergarten, Preschool Promise is committed to investing in early educators. We emphasize training in:

- Conscious Discipline
- Culturally Responsive Teaching
- Curriculum/DAP

When you join a Preschool Promise Professional Learning Community, you'll work with a group of colleagues throughout the school year to grow and develop your skills. We'll dig deeply into topics such as accommodating children's different learning styles, building classrooms where Black boys succeed and fostering social-emotional learning. Joining a PLC requires a time commitment and an application.

- PLCs are led by qualified facilitators who focus on your success.
- PLCs are year-long collaboratives; sessions are 2 hours long and include outside homework.
- Participants receive a stipend paid in 2 installments, with the opportunity for an implementation bonus at the end of the PLC.
- Upon acceptance into a PLC, each participant must commit to the participation requirements.
- Please remember that Preschool Promise will send a 1099-MISC form to the Internal Revenue Service, and it is your responsibility to claim the stipend as income for tax purposes.

We have a new stipend policy

Our research shows that children make the most gains when their teachers participate in a year-long PLC and receive coaching. That's why we're shifting our resources to intensive professional development and coaching. This means we need to make some changes to our teacher stipend offerings.

We are shifting funds from our Teacher Promise Stipend to our Professional Learning Communities Stipend to create one enhanced stipend for those participating in a year-long PLC.

The Professional Learning Communities Stipend will be for early educators who:

- Implement what they learn in their PLC in the classroom, complete homework and share how they have implemented what they are learning.
- Continue working at a Preschool Promise partner site for the entire school year.

The amount of the new PLC Stipend will be based on the number of sessions attended and the satisfactory implementation of what was learned.

- 9 sessions X \$75 for attendance = \$675 + implementation bonus of \$325 (total \$1,000)
- 17 sessions X \$75 for attendance = \$1,275 + \$325 implementation bonus (total \$1,600)

Coaching is a great FREE BENEFIT

Preschool Promise provides free personalized classroom coaching to Preschool Promise partner sites that apply and are selected to participate in this 9-month-long program. To get the most from the experience, administrators and teachers must be committed to making time for coaching. Those who complete their classroom coaching experience and implement changes in their classrooms will receive a \$500 stipend in July of 2024.

Teachers are required to participate in monthly site visits and debriefing sessions with coaches. Coaching may be done in-person, virtually or with the assistance of the SWIVL robot. During the in-person or virtual debriefing, the teacher may not supervise children. Additionally, the coach will communicate at least once per month with the program administrator to discuss the Continuous Improvement Plans of their staff.

Administrative Coaching

Administrative coaching for 2-Star, 3-Star and 4-Star programs will be provided by the Preschool Promise Step Up to Quality (SUTQ)/ Leadership Coach, who will help administrators plan for, maintain and/or increase their program's Star Rating and improve their quality. To receive this benefit, Administrators must submit an application. Administrators must meet at least once per month with the STUQ/ Leadership Coach. If a program fails to meet with its Coach, the program may lose its Quality Dollars and future coaching opportunities.



Scan QR code or visit www.bit.ly/PPCoaching2324 to apply for coaching today!



We're here to help!

When you have a question, here's whom to contact.

Topic	Preschool Promise staff member
Attendance	attendance@preschoolpromise.org
Book-of-the-Month	Ryhan.Hoskins@preschoolpromise.org
Child Enrollment	Lindsey.Riley@preschoolpromise.org
Classroom Supply Fund	Catherine.Rauch@preschoolpromise.org
Coaching	Crystal.Howard@preschoolpromise.org
PD Registration and Stipends	Christine.Yeary@preschoolpromise.org
Provider Portal Help	attendance@preschoolpromise.org
Quality Dollars	Sandra.Raye-Redmond@preschoolpromise.org
Scholar Pathways	ContinuingEducation@preschoolpromise.org
Send pictures for social media	Emily.Broughton@preschoolpromise.org
Signage or marketing materials	Emily.Broughton@preschoolpromise.org
Update teacher contact information	Use the Provider Portal



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