

**preschool PROMISE**  
because the first 5 years matter

July, 2023

**Better together**  
**Season Opener**  
**Bird book**  
**RESPECT**  
**Join us**

**Be true to your school**

August is back-to-school month for many families but, for a lot of child care centers, their doors are open for children all year long.

We know that school wouldn't be possible without our amazing educators. Without their support, most parents would not be able to work which is why they are "the workforce behind the workforce." In a recent **Dayton Daily News article** by Chris Kershner, President and CEO of the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce, he said **"If employees are forced to choose between their children and their job, their family will win every single time."**



Early educators are woefully underpaid, making an average of just \$12-\$15 an hour and area providers often struggle to recruit and keep child care workers. Preschool Promise is working hard to help retain teachers through learning opportunities, wage pilots and more-but we need your help to support these hard-working teachers!

We are sending well wishes to everyone returning to school this month and will continue to be a resource for teachers and families all year round.

Robyn Lightcap  
Executive Director

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**Better when we're together**



Preschool Promise is partnering with a record-high number of schools for the 2023-2024 school year! This year, 124 schools will have children enrolled in our programs. Look for Preschool Promise signs to find out who our partners are or **visit our website** to find highly rated schools in your area.

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## Season Opener

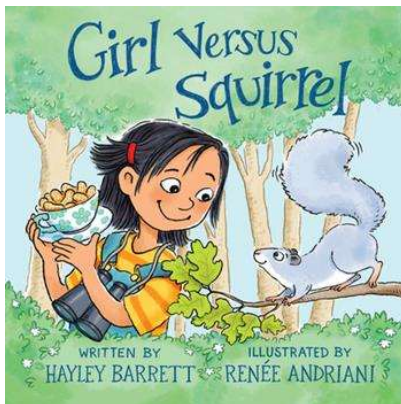
We know that teachers are the backbone of the educational system and that supporting them means that they can better help children! Each year, Preschool Promise holds kick-off events for teachers in our partner Preschools. This event is an opportunity for teachers to receive information about new professional learning community offerings, "Core 4" Kindergarten readiness skills, this year's Books-of-the-Month and so much more!



Teachers can **register for** this free event that will take place on August 7th at the Day Air Ballpark and we would like to thank the Dayton Dragons for their partnership!

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## The bird is the word



Pearl is a hard worker and a bird feeder enthusiast who is forced to get creative and problem-solve when a pesky squirrel takes over her feeders in August's Book-of-the-Month, *Girl Versus Squirrel*. Problem-solving is one of Preschool Promise's Core Four initiatives, which mirror important skills that a child must develop in preparation for Kindergarten.

Our friends at Five Rivers MetroParks created **this padlet** filled with fun activities and project ideas like bird watching and how to make a bird feeder around

the theme of this month's book.

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## We RESPECT teachers

We celebrated the end of the RESPECT Pilot on July 6 with an outing to a Dayton Dragons baseball game where we hosted early learning staff and their families and celebrated their commitment to young children and families. The one-year RESPECT

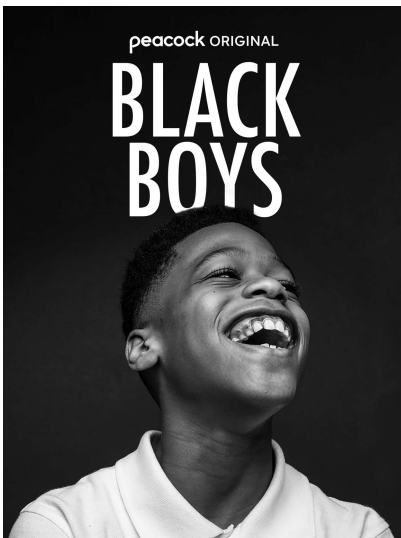
pilot partnered with 14 centers in Northwest Dayton, paying educators a monthly grant or stipend. As part of this research project, we collected retention rate information to learn the impact of better compensation.

With support from the Northwest Dayton Partnership and Learn to Earn Dayton, this initiative was funded by Blue Meridian Partners. The RESPECT Pilot distributed approximately \$1.1 million to early learning teachers and staff.



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### Join us in this movement



The award-winning “Black Boys” documentary is coming to a theater near you! This summer and fall we are hosting community watch parties, where hundreds of educators and community partners will gather to watch this moving film and reflect on how we can be a part of the movement to advance equity in early childhood education

**Register today** to join us for a screening of Black Boys! Receive a special T-shirt and a chance to win a door prize when you attend any of the screening dates.

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

