



Report re 4-Year Old Program (Best in Class) and DHS Early Childhood division

Senator Judy Lee, Chairman | Interim Human Services Committee | April 27, 2022

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Dakota | Human Services
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EARLY CHILDHOOD DIVISION

Purpose

The purpose of the Early Childhood division is to build greater access to quality early childhood experiences so kids age 0-5 from all backgrounds and circumstances have the opportunity to reach their potential.



EARLY CHILDHOOD DIVISION

What we do



Licensing

- Issue licenses and certifications to early childhood programs in North Dakota
- Monitor compliance with early childhood health and safety regulations
- Maintain child care provider profiles for both licensing and resource/referral

Professional Development

- Maintain workforce registry in support of early childhood workforce
- Provide technical assistance to providers to support health, safety and continuous quality improvement
- Provider start-up and expansion support

Quality

- Operation of Bright & Early – the ND quality rating improvement system
- Maintenance of early childhood standards and practices
- Assessment and validation of quality rated EC programs across ND

Best in Class

- Grant program to grow access to high quality EC experiences delivered in the year before kindergarten
- Targeted coaching and professional supports
- Active monitoring for fidelity to quality standards

Family Support and Education

- Head Start Collaboration
- Early interventions for children with disabilities
- Behavioral supports and interventions
- Child Care assistance for lower income households
- Family education and outreach

EC Operations

- Early Childhood Integrated Data System
- Child Care Development Block Grant state plan
- EC Technology System coordination and support

EARLY CHILDHOOD DIVISION TIMELINE

Update on Progress

Dec 2021

- Awarded contract for QRIS supports



Nov 2021

- Launched inclusion supports by USpireND
- Launched Child Care Aware TA/coaching/referral services by SEEC
- Pyramid Model and NCEDTL courses available via Growing Futures
- ECIDS project planning



Jan 2022

- Finalizing integrations for Child Care Licensing (CCL) system development
- Finalized five-year plan for Head Start Collaboration Office
- Conducted a Head Start Needs Assessment
- Submitted first federal report of APRA grants to child care sector



Feb/Mar 2022

- Updated state Child Care Emergency Plan and participated in emergency operations command center exercise
- Launched Four-Year Old Program approval process
- Awarded Head Start Collaboration Office continuation grant
- Updated Relationship Based Professional Development (RBPD) Endorsements
- Presented to Workforce Development Council on child care affordability



Apr 2022

- Opened application for Best in Class 2022-23 cohort and held Q & A sessions
- User Acceptance Testing for CCL underway
- Awarded Best in Class continuation grants



CHILD CARE STABILIZATION

Participation and Funds Obligated

820 Stabilization grants

614 Health Safety and Technology

70 Inclusion Grants

66 Child Care Start Up Grants

26 Quality Improvement Grants

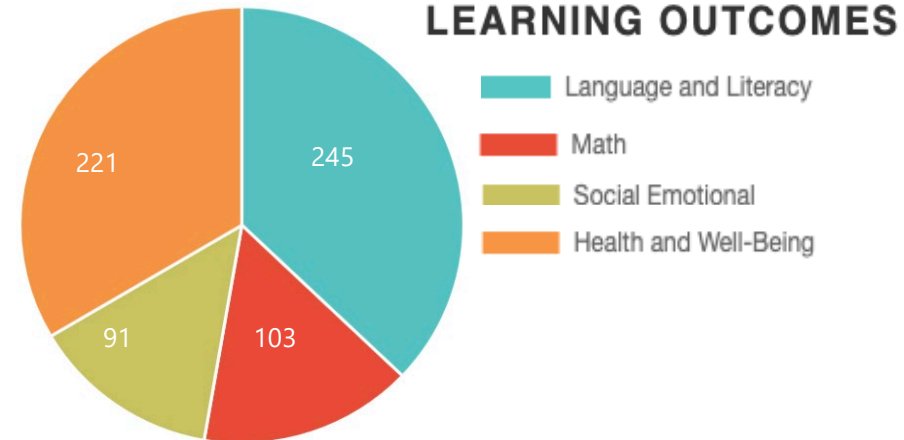
\$38M obligated

\$17.5M distributed





Ready Rosie FAMILY



- 143 family members have registered to use ReadyRosie resources
- 25 teachers are active in 17 sites
- Families have viewed 464 Modeled Moment videos
- Elgin/New Leipzig Public School Caregiver commented: "I am most excited to learn new activities to be able to do at home with my son."



Stomp the Letter

3-4 Years, 4-5 Years



Snack Count

18-36 months



Reading Strategies: Look at the Picture

Kindergarten, 1st grade



Ten in a Row

Kindergarten



Tips for tech: Screen time battles

3-4 Years, 4-5 Years, Kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade, 3rd grade, 18-36 months



Bear Hunt

18-36 months



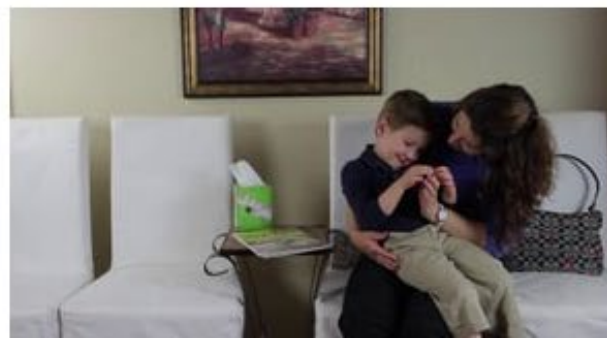
Reading Routines for Early Readers

0-9 months, 08-18 Months, 18-36 months, 3-4 Years, 4-5 Years, Kindergarten, 1st grade



Funny Reading

3-4 Years, 4-5 Years



BEST IN CLASS

Early observations



- By including both **small and large group size** options – BIC opened door to participation by smaller programs
 - 62% small size / 38% large size rooms
 - 43% of children in small size room / 57% in large size
- Budding collaborations
 - Best in Class has caught the eye of the North Dakota Optometric Association and they reached out to **partner to provide vision screenings** statewide.
 - DoH also wrote Best in Class into a **HRSA grant proposal** for grants to states **to support oral health** workforce activities.
- Interrater Reliability to accurately document development and learning has challenged teachers to grow in their objectivity.

BEST IN CLASS

Levers for Cohort 1 programs in Year 2



The funding model will be based on three levers - **group size**, licensed child care **tuition dependence**/school district's **free and reduced priced student enrollment** and **schedule of operation** to determine grant award amount.

Baseline:

- Group of 8-10 - \$60,000
- Group of 17-20 - \$120,000

Tier 1 calculation:

- **Tuition Dependent** Licensed Child Care **OR** School District with 50% or more **Free and Reduced Priced** Student Enrollment (document attached) = 100% of grant dollars
- Not Tuition Dependent and Not Low Income area = 50% of grant dollars

Tier 2 calculation:

- **Part-time** program (<26 hrs/wk) – 50% of Tier 1 amount
- **Full-time** program (26+ hrs/wk) – 100% of Tier 1 amount

EARLY CHILDHOOD DIVISION TIMELINE

What's Next



June 2022

- Complete reporting from 2021/22 Best in Class cohort
- Open grant applications for workforce retention, training and career path incentives
- Launch ND3 cost sharing model

August 2022

- Best In Class Year 2 cohort begins
- CCL promotion begins

May 2022

- Award new grantees for 2022/23 Best in Class cohort
- 2022/23 Best in Class Kickoff Meeting
- Research partner assists Best in Class programs to market and recruit their community
- Launch May QRIS Bright & Early ND cohort
- Six-month check-ins with contract holders
- Produce first edition of Early Childhood Division newsletter
- Early Childhood Education Council meeting

July 2022

- Planning website / user experience updates
- Engage in Administrative Rule Process regarding health and safety compliance
- Training planning for Child Care Licensing (CCL) system continues

September 2022

- Launch September ND QRIS Bright & Early cohort
- Early Childhood Education Council meets



During the **first 5 years** of life, emotionally nourishing relationships lay the **foundation** for lifelong health and well-being.

The caring adults who touch the lives of infants, toddlers and preschoolers can maximize our long-term impact in ensuring all children have an **opportunity to realize** their **full potential.**





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