What is Bright & Early ND?
Bright & Early North Dakota

- Part of a national movement of states to adopt Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS) for early childhood services.
Bright & Early North Dakota

• Led by the N.D. Department of Human Services, in partnership with Child Care Aware of N.D. and Erica Kindem, Bright & Early ND Coordinator

• Based on the latest scientific research

• Tested in the “real world”. Two year pilot in Cass County with 35 child care programs; 683 families; and over 1,200 children

• Based on a Continuous Quality Improvement philosophy
• Recognizes child care as an important profession in our community

• Brings additional dollars and the most current tools to our profession

• Focuses on giving children the best beginning possible, so they will be prepared for school and life

• Provides recognition for a job well done

• Educates parents about the importance of the first 5 years, and connects families to child care programs that are taking steps with Bright & Early to prepare children for their future
Why Bright & Early ND?
90% of a child’s brain development happens before they enter kindergarten.

Source: ZERO TO THREE-National Center for Infants, Toddlers, and Families

We’ll Shine Together
Education Pipeline in North Dakota

**CONNECTING THE DOTS**

1. If families and caregivers can provide quality early childhood development, then children will start school ready to learn. Early experiences promote positive future learning, behavior and health.

2. If children start school ready to learn, they are more likely to read at grade level by 3rd grade. Remedial costs go down, potential lifelong gaps could be eliminated and our entire school system is better for ALL kids.

3. If children read at grade level by 3rd grade, they are more likely to graduate from high school. High school dropouts constitute 82% of the American prison population and are 4 times as likely to be unemployed, and apply for public assistance.

4. If children graduate from high school, they are more likely to go on to higher education, creating a legacy for future generations and businesses benefit from a better educated workforce in these globally competitive times. High school graduates also can enter the job market as tax-paying citizens.

5. Confident, accomplished adults contribute to a responsible community. Employable, tax-paying citizens are critical to a vital economy.

We’ll Shine Together

Bright & Early North Dakota
Every $1 invested in early education produces a 7-10% return, according to researchers from the Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank.

http://www.minneapolisfed.org/publications_papers/pub_display.cfm?id=3832
How will Bright & Early ND work?
Combined funding from 2013 HB 1012 and 2013 HB 1422 has made limited statewide implementation of the first two steps possible for each county.
4 Steps

Step 1: Health & Safety
Step 2: Space and Materials
Step 3: Activities and Experiences
Step 4: Relationships and Interactions

Professional Development

We’ll Shine Together
Health and Safety
- Provide a safe and healthy environment for children focused on preventing injuries and reducing the spread of germs.

Space and Materials
- Offer a variety of materials to support play and learning experiences for children with different interests and abilities.
- Serve nutritious food to children.

Activities and Experiences
- Provide written information to families upon enrollment and annually about the availability of screening and early intervention services in the community.
- Use a curriculum that supports each child’s development. The curriculum is aligned with the Birth to Three Early Learning Guidelines and the North Dakota Pre-Kindergarten Standards.
- Use an approved assessment tool to learn about each child’s development. Use the results of the assessment to:
  - set goals with families for each child’s learning and development
  - plan learning activities that build upon each child’s strengths and provide opportunities for further growth

Professional Development
- Individuals have the knowledge and skills needed to work with children birth through five and their families
- Director, Family/Group Licensee, or Principal has specialized preparation in business and program administration specific to early learning

Arriving Soon
Relationships & Interactions
- Develop warm and supportive relationships with children and help children develop positive relationships with each other.
- Place an emphasis on children’s interests, motivations and points of view in daily activities and interactions.
- Facilitate children’s critical thinking and language development through interactions with children.

Alternate Pathway for Accredited Programs...
Overview

Self-Study
Is this for me?
• Review the “Self-Study Toolkit” online at www.brightnd.org.

Become a Partner
Gain access to the benefits exclusively reserved for Bright & Early Partners.
• Submit the “Partnership Agreement” found online at www.brightnd.org.

Connect with a Coach
Coaches from Child Care Aware® are by your side, so you never have to go it alone.
• Make a plan of action to meet your goals. Then, get busy putting your plan in to action!

Site Visit by a Bright & Early Team Member
Show how you meet the Bright & Early goals.
• Submit a “Site Visit Request Form” at www.brightnd.org.

Celebrate!
Recognition for a job well done.
• Earn bonus dollars and marketing tools when you achieve Step 2, Step 3 or Step 4.

We’ll Shine Together
We'll Shine Together

**STEP 1**

**Health and Safety**

- **PLUS**
  - 90+ free EasyReach training courses
  - $500 scholarship to earn a Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential
  - $1000 scholarship towards a degree in early childhood education

**Bonus:**
- Marketing Toolbox
  - Cheat Sheet: Top 3 quotes to say to parents when they pick their child up (hint: they’ll be thanking you!)
  - Permission to use the Bright & Early logo in your marketing materials
  - Window decal identifying you as a Bright & Early Partner
  - Leadership Guide: 4 activities to excite staff and get them on board with Bright & Early (you can do these tonight at your staff meeting)

**STEP 2**

**Space and Materials**

**ALL of STEP 1 benefits**

- Grant dollars to buy learning materials (up to $50 per child)
- Personal coach from Child Care Aware of North Dakota (100% of past participants say this is the best benefit of Bright & Early)
- Free Course: Set Goals + Create a Successful Child Care Program ($150 value)
- Workbook: 4 exercises to master Step 2
- Bonus dollars for a job well done (up to $90 per child)

**Bonus:**
- Marketing Toolbox

**STEP 3**

**Activities and Experiences**

**ALL of STEP 1 & 2 benefits, including your own personal coach and more bonus dollars!**

**PLUS**

- Grant dollars to purchase a curriculum, assessment tool, or equipment to streamline your assessment system

**Bonus:**
- Marketing Toolbox

**STEP 4**

**Relationships & Interactions**

**ALL of STEP 1, 2 & 3 benefits, including your own personal coach and even more bonus dollars!**

**Bonus:**
- Marketing Toolbox

**ARRIVING SOON:**
- Parent Bag Bundle: Series of 3 postcards you need to parents to understand the work you’re doing with Bright & Early!
- Newsletter template
- Press release
- Poster
- Graphics to post on your favorite social media sites
- T-shirt for each child
- Extra revenue!

**Recognition:**
Recognition as a Bright & Early Partner to the 6,200 parents looking for child care each year through Child Care Aware of North Dakota®