



# Bright & Early

NORTH DAKOTA

SUMMER 2017 NEWSLETTER



## IN THE LOOP

### What's New with Bright & Early ND

by Pam Palmer, Program Manager

The Bright & Early ND Team has been extremely busy over the last several months! We have so many updates that should really be called upgrades to our entire system. All of our recent upgrades are effective as of July 1st, 2017.

The most notable changes are to the Professional Development requirements set in place for programs. You will notice we have changed our focus to program leadership; this exciting shift will assure us that all children benefit from trained Teachers and Caregivers!

We encourage you to take a look at our [Playbook](#), we have designed it to be a handy, accessible tool that gives you an overview of the Quality Standards that are required at each of our Steps to Quality! If you feel you need even more detail then hop over to our [Partner Handbook](#) - we have designed this resource to answer the most commonly asked questions. As always, please feel free to reach out to our team at [gris@brightnd.org](mailto:gris@brightnd.org) for any other questions or comments or suggestions.

Together we are better!

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

The Bright & Early ND Team loves to spread the word at local events, conferences, association meetings, etc. Please let us know about events in your area that we could attend to share information, answer questions and gather feedback.

## BRIGHT & EARLY ND CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations to all of the programs that have become Bright & Early ND Quality Rated from January-June 2017!

### STEP 1 QUALITY RATED

Amanda Harmer  
Amanda McCallum  
Amy Caillier  
Ashley Franzen  
Colette Aguilar  
Lakota Child Care  
Learn 'n Move Childcare  
Lil' Bloomers at Timber Creek  
Maria Kuhn  
NaturaKids Center  
S&S Childcare  
St. John's Child Care Center  
The Corcoran School  
Velva Squirts Child Care  
YMCA Youth Development Center- North  
*Continued on next page...*

"The most valuable resource that all teachers have is each other. Without **collaboration** our **growth** is limited to our own perspectives."

Robert John Meehan



### STEP 1

## Quality Standards Update

by Tara Wateland, Program Specialist



As of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 all Bright & Early ND Step 1 Quality Rated programs will be required to renew on a yearly basis. Programs that are currently holding a Step 1 Quality Rating will have until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017 to renew their Step 1 status. Before you get started we encourage you to check out the [Playbook](#) and review the new Step 1 Quality Standards. Once your program is ready to renew you can find the new [Step 1 Quality Rating application](#) here!

### STEP 2

## ERS<sup>®</sup> Training Opportunities

by Stacy Knudson, Program Specialist



Did you know that one of the Bright & Early ND Partner Perks is discounted rates on training? The Environment Rating Scales<sup>®</sup> Basics Course is a 3-hour training specific to the tools. This training will be held multiple times throughout the state (*dates and locations will vary pending cohort participation*) during each Bright & Early ND cohort. Bright & Early ND Program Partners will receive an exclusive email from Child Care Aware of North Dakota<sup>®</sup> offering early registration and a special code to enter when you register. Sign up right away to secure your spot! Space will fill fast!

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

## Stay Connected Online





## STEP 3

# Curriculum Alignment

by Stacy Knudson, Program Specialist

The [Curriculum Alignment Worksheet](#) is used to show how your program's curriculum aligns with the North Dakota Early Learning Guidelines. Bright & Early ND has updated this worksheet. It now encompasses all age groups in one document: Birth-5 years old. No need to fill out multiple forms! Everyone fills out the same questions, regardless of the type of curriculum they use: published, bundled, or self-designed. This is a great tool to celebrate and show off all of the amazing ways you meet the needs of the children in your care. The more you explain and show us what you do, the better understanding the team has on how you incorporate the curriculum into your program. Your coach can assist you with filling out the worksheet if you have any questions.



## STEP 4

# Introducing myTeachstone™

by Tara Wateland, Program Specialist

Bright & Early ND is proud to announce our newest Partner Perk, myTeachstone™! myTeachstone™ is an online subscription service designed to combine your Classroom Assessment and Scoring System® (CLASS®) observation data with individualized professional development resources. During your Bright & Early ND cohort, participating Step 4 programs will have access to the ever-growing myTeachstone™ library, giving them the tools to filter through hundreds of videos, articles, and courses to find the resources to help them learn and grow! The best part of this Step 4 Partner Perk is that Bright & Early ND is covering the cost for participating programs, a savings of \$110 per each Lead Teacher or Lead Caregiver!

## BRIGHT & EARLY ND CELEBRATIONS CONTINUED

### STEP 2 QUALITY RATED

Brita Goss

Lea Bartram

Learning Universe Childcare

Little Steps Learning Center

Paula Villanueva

Tender Hearts Daycare

### STEP 3 QUALITY RATED

Country Kids Daycare

Elim Children's Center

Heather Zins

Kelsey Munter

Kirsten Anderson

Kristi Bradley

Little Lambs Christian Preschool

SENDCAA Child Care Center

Shiloh Christian Preschool

University Children's Learning Center

Youth Commission Preschool

Bright & Early ND would love to **showcase** your program on social media! Send us a **quote, picture** or something you are **particularly proud of** to be a part of our Friday Feature!

## FEATURED PARTNER BENEFIT

# Bright & Early ND Partner Benefits

by Pam Palmer, Program Manager

A long standing goal of Bright & Early ND has always been to tie higher child care assistance reimbursements to programs that showcase their quality through a Bright & Early ND Quality Rating. We are excited to announce that we were recently notified by the North Dakota's Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) that they will be using Bright & Early ND's Quality Ratings to determine different levels of payment, in the form of a [tiered reimbursement system](#). North Dakota CCAP plans to implement tiered reimbursement within the next 1-2 years. More information will be coming soon so stay tuned!



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Quality Standards Update

As of July 1st, 2017 Bright & Early ND will be implementing the new Professional Development Quality Standards as outlined in the Bright & Early ND [Playbook](#). Programs applying for the July 2017 cohort and beyond and programs that are currently Quality Rated will need to meet the new Quality Standards.

Programs can use the Professional Development Quality Standards Inventory as a resource and guide. This inventory will help your program meet the requirements needed for each Quality Rating Step and plan future training Opportunities.

For more information see, [www.brightnd.org/professionaldevelopment](http://www.brightnd.org/professionaldevelopment)

## HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE?

### Contact Your Bright & Early ND Team



**Tara Wateland**  
Program Specialist



**Pam Palmer**  
Program Manager



**Stacy Knudson**  
Program Specialist