



Bright & Early

NORTH DAKOTA

WINTER 2016 NEWSLETTER



IN THE LOOP

A Year in Review

by Pam Palmer, *Program Manager*

Happy New Year! The beginning of a new year gives us an excuse to pause and take a look back at the previous year. A year ago I was still fresh in this role, trying to figure out everything and also continue on the path my predecessor had laid. We had the framework of Step 3 and Step 4 figured out but we still needed to tackle the details. We were laying out a marketing strategy to help parents understand Quality Ratings and the impact a Quality program can have on their child and we were working hard to build up the system in North Dakota. By the middle of February we were on a great path but then we had a stumbling block with a very large, unexpected budget cut. We had to make some quick, hard decisions and our path was significantly slowed down after the cuts but it didn't stop us from continuing to grow.

We now have 18% of North Dakota's children attending a Quality Rated licensed program. We currently have 33 programs working towards their next step and just last week we rated our FIRST Step 3 program! We have a social media presence and we have a marketing plan ready to go. I am so proud of all we have accomplished but even more proud of our Bright & Early Partners, you all are committed to making sure the children in your programs are ready to succeed in school and beyond! This is going to be an exciting year with even more recognition for all of you. I hope your New Year's resolution includes Bright & Early. I encourage you to consider applying for the next cohort - you can do this!

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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 CELEBRATIONS

A big Congratulations to all of the programs that have become quality rated (*since October 2016*) through Bright & Early ND!

Michelle Klabo

Michigan Munchkins

Little Gophers Daycare

Moriah Rademacher

Grace Lutheran School
Fargo

Beginnings Childcare &
Preschool

Jen Eback

Eventide Heartland Child
Care Center

STEP 2 TIPS

What Is 'Weather Permitting'?

by Stacy Knudson, *Bright & Early Specialist*



The term 'weather permitting' is used in several items of the ERS scales with regard to when children can participate in outdoor activities. 'Weather permitting' means *almost every day*, unless there is active precipitation, or public announcements that advise people to remain indoors due to weather conditions, such as extreme cold or heat that might cause health problems. It is sometimes said, "There is no bad weather; only bad clothes!"

Download this useful [Cold Weather Guide](#) from Child Care Aware of North Dakota.

STEP 3 TIPS

Individualizing Group Documentation in TS GOLD

by Tara Wateland, *Bright & Early Specialist*



When you are in the moment it can be a real time saver to use group documentation in TS GOLD. Group documentation is where you tag more than one child to a piece of documentation. Depending on your observation, you may want to individualize this documentation further to note each child's specific development and learning. When you individualize group documentation, a separate documentation entry will be created for each child tied to this documentation so you can customize each one individually.

Ready to try it? Click on this great step-by-step [TS GOLD Tutorial](#).

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Stay Connected Online



Tell me and I forget.

Teach me and I
remember.

Involve me and I
learn!

Benjamin Franklin



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Creating an Organization Account

by Tara Wateland, *Bright & Early Specialist*

In the New Year we will be asking all Bright & Early ND programs to create an Organization Account in the ND Growing Futures Workforce Registry. It is essential that the current Director (*for Preschool and Center-based Programs*) or Lead Caregiver (*for Family and Group Programs*) be the account manager. With your organization account, you'll be able to quickly and easily track your employees' training, provide information to your licenser at renewal time, and submit training for approval. Organization accounts are for licensed direct-care programs as well as Pre-K, after school programs, early childhood service providers, training organizations, Tribal entities, and others involved in the field of early care and education.

TIP: A great way to remember the difference between an individual account and an organization account is this...the organization account is for the business and therefore it is directly linked to the program's license. Your individual account is for you as an early childhood educator and the trainings, employment history, etc. are specific to you and your professional development. Both have many benefits and we encourage all licensed programs to get their accounts created and linked.

Ready to create your account? This handy guide helps you step-by-step in creating your program's organization account.

<http://www.ndgrowingfutures.org/files/pdf/ndgf-howtocreateorganizationaccount.pdf>

HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE?

Contact Your Bright & Early ND Team



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