

March 17, 2025

To whom it may concern,

My name is Michelle Klabo, I am a licensed group childcare provider located in Jamestown. I currently care for nine children, with five receiving services through Inclusion. I have been a childcare provider for almost 11 ½ years. I have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education and have been a Step 4 provider on the QRIS rating system with Bright and Early program for 7 years.

Over the last 11 years, I have worked with children with expressive/receptive delays, gross/fine motor challenges, social-emotional and cognitive delays, and medical issues. Over the years, I have worked with many children with special needs in my childcare. It has been a rewarding and amazing challenge, but I won't have gotten this far without a support system helping me learn and modify my childcare environment. I have had the opportunity to work with a handful of inclusion specialists in our state. This additional support, knowledge to ask questions, ideas of how to change environments, ways to approach challenging behaviors and modify them has helped my children learn and grow and how I teach.

Along with the inclusion assistance, the state's financial support has significantly helped my program ABC Learn-N-Play. The ability to pay for additional staff for more 1 to 1 to meet an individual child's goals and objectives. Having funds available to purchase extra materials to teach more activities to meet objectives in a child's IFSP, IEP or care plan has been beneficial to keep costs down. Over the years, I have seen an increase in academic, social-emotional, physical, and cognitive goals by modifying lessons and finding a way to teach to all children. This additional state funding is necessary to make sure ALL children can meet their milestones to have success for their future in life and education.

I am writing in favor of fully funding early childhood inclusion funds. It is vital for our state to continue to grow and build high quality childcare for ALL children in North Dakota.

Sincerely,

Michelle Klabo, Owner

ABC Learn-N-Play