

My name is Colette Jenson and I own/operate Circle of Friends Preschool in Valley City, ND. I have done so for 27 years. I am writing to you with great enthusiasm to request your continuing support in securing grants/monies for Early Childhood Education in North Dakota. As you may know, early childhood education plays a critical role in laying the foundation for a child's future success. The first few years of a child's life are essential for cognitive, social, and emotional development, and ensuring that every child has access to high-quality education during this time can have a profound impact on their lifelong learning and opportunities.

I have spent the past year obtaining Step 2 and Step 3 credentials through Bright and Early ND. I worked closely with my assigned coach who helped me continue to provide a nurturing and stimulating environment for my young students. It was a great deal of work, but so worth the knowledge I gained. I also appreciated the monetary grants I received upon completion. These monies were used to purchase new equipment for our center....with so many children in our program, we need a "refresh" often. Also, obtaining Step 2 and 3, has enabled me to apply for the Best in Class grant for the upcoming school year. I am so very excited about his grant. Best in Class would provide me with tools and funds to pay my staff a good wage, fit the classroom with up the date, educational materials, and, most importantly, allow children to attend Pre k 3-4 full days a week at little charge. The financial burden this will take away from parents is important beyond measure

This investment will not only benefit the children directly involved but will also contribute to building a stronger, more educated community for years to come.

I urge you to continue to support early childhood education programs in the great state of North Dakota.

Thank you for your commitment to making the children's lives fuller.

Colette Jenson