



Bright & Early

NORTH DAKOTA

FALL 2016 NEWSLETTER



IN THE LOOP

What's New with Bright & Early

by Pam Palmer, *Program Manager*

So many exciting things are happening in the QRIS world! I am most proud of the fact that we have reached the 20% mark – 20% of North Dakota children in child care are in Bright & Early ND Quality Rated programs!! Now we just need to get the other 80% to be given the same opportunity – we can do it and you can help. I challenge each of you to tell someone new that you are a Bright & Early Quality Rated program. Spread the word! You are doing great things and it is more than okay to be proud of that! You should not be North Dakota's best kept secret!

THIS JUST IN

Facebook Groups

by Tara Wateland, *Program Coordinator*

The Bright & Early ND Facebook groups are up and running! These groups are exclusive to Bright & Early ND partners to support, connect with, encourage and bounce ideas off one another!

An invite has been sent so make sure you check your email to accept! If you are having trouble finding your group invite, please feel free to search for the group in Facebook. Log into Facebook and type 'Bright & Early ND' at the top, select the groups tab, and send a request to join the group!

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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 July 2016) through Bright & Early ND!

Acorn Hollow Early Learning Center

Alicia Johnson

Baby Bloomers Infant Center

Bonnie Mielke

Brita Goss

Brooke Newgard

Kathleen Bilstad

KidVentures Child Care & Preschool

Lisa Behl

Mary Bump

Michelle Klabo

Nokomis I Child Care Center

Nokomis II Child Care Center

Ragamuffins Ranch Daycare

Stacey Davis

The Sonshine Center

STEP 2 TIPS

Accessibility & the ERS

by Stacy Knudson, Program Coordinator



The word 'accessible' is used throughout all three of the ERS tools. According to the tool, accessible means children can reach and are allowed to use toys, materials, furnishings, and/or equipment. Toys in open storage such as open shelves must be within easy reach of children with no barriers (for example, a "no-touch" rule or containers with lids).

Keeping in mind the term 'accessible', think about your environment. How are you storing your materials? Can children freely grab and play? How can you make items more accessible?

STEP 3 TIPS

Curriculum Alignment

by Stacy Knudson, Program Coordinator



Did you know that the Curriculum Alignment Worksheets are available as fillable documents? Wow, what a time saver this can be! When you are ready to fill this out, make sure you save the blank worksheets to your computer. Once the document has been saved to your computer, you can open and work at your own pace. Remember to save your progress! When it comes time to submit your Step 3 Site Review Request, you can easily attach the worksheets with your other documentation.

Email all forms to qris@brightnd.org.

Make today
the day to learn
something new.



WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Stay Connected Online



FEATURED PARTNER BENEFIT

Bright & Early ND Partner Benefits

by Pam Palmer, *Program Manager*

The Bright & Early team is working hard to create exclusive benefits available only to Bright & Early ND Partners. We have worked with Kaplan Early Learning Company to offer 20% off purchases, we offer major discounts on the Teaching Strategies Gold Online Assessment tool, and we offer FREE Growing Futures approved training in Step 3 and are developing training that will be intentional and meaningful surrounding the Environment Rating Scales. We want more though – if you know of a business in your area that supports quality programming let us know. We want to create **local** rewards for Bright & Early ND Partners.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Growing Futures Registry

It really does take a village to raise healthy, happy children who are ready for school and for life. We all have a role to play in this important work. The Registry is here to support North Dakota's early childhood community with services and resources.

Did you know that all Bright & Early ND Partners are required to be Growing Future Members? If you haven't already, go and join today! We're excited for you to experience the new focused and intentional career pathways training because we all know that intentional training goes hand in hand with quality programs! Check out Growing Futures Registry at www.ndgrowingfutures.org

HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE?

Contact Your Bright & Early ND Team



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