



Five-Star Award Release

Norwood Elementary Preschool/MCESC~ Madison~ Champaign Educational Service Center Recognized as a Quality Learning and Development Program

**For Immediate Release: January 27, 2017 Contact: Lydia Pizner~ Preschool Supervisor
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West Jefferson, Ohio - In recognition of a commitment to quality and an ongoing dedication to the learning and development of children, Norwood Elementary Preschool has received a Five-Star Step Up To Quality Award from the state of Ohio.

Step Up To Quality is Ohio's rating system for learning and development programs. Participating programs can earn a one to five star rating.

In addition to meeting all standards of a four-star rating, programs with five stars may also:

- Have lower staff/child ratios.
- Use child assessment results to plan activities that best support learning and development goals for each child.
- Share assessment results and create goals for children.
- Develop plans to support children as they transition to a new classroom or educational setting.
- Work with other organizations or businesses within the community to support children and their families.
- Have an active and organized parent volunteer group.
- Use input from families and community partners' inform the program's continuous improvement process.
- Have accreditation by an approved organization.

"Norwood Elementary Preschool is proud to be a five-star program", said Lydia Pizner, supervisor of the Norwood Elementary Preschool. We know that children have approximately 1,892 days from birth until school starts, and every day matters. It is important to us that children develop their self-confidence, social and emotional skills, and a love of learning.

Research confirms that the first five years of a child's life has a direct impact on how children develop emotional well-being, in addition to, learning and social skills. For these reasons, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and the Ohio Department of Education are committed to improving early childhood opportunities for all children in the state.

To learn more, visit www.earlychildhoodohio.org.