



**Hello!**

**You are receiving this newsletter because you serve children and families in our community.**

As a childcare provider, health care or social services professional, or early learning partner, your work is vitally important to the positive development of our babies, toddlers and preschoolers.

**Our mission at Marion & Polk Early Learning Hub is to collaborate with you**—to better align services and resources for children, families, partners and providers.

We are here to connect families with the services you provide as well as our kindergarten readiness tools and programs. We are also here to listen to you and help you do your job effectively.

This edition of our newsletter focuses on preschool. We'll bring you updates on other programs and resources a few times each year.

Feel free to [reach out and let us know](#) what you'd like from this newsletter going forward. We also invite you to share this newsletter with your team, and fellow education, social service or healthcare providers—and parents!

We look forward to working with you to serve the young families in our community.

Sincerely,

Lisa Harnisch  
Executive Director, Marion & Polk Early Learning Hub

### **Attend a Collective Action Team (CAT) meeting**

These monthly meetings (third Thursdays from 9 AM -11 AM) bring together professionals from healthcare, early childhood development, K-12 education and social services to provide input around Hub initiatives and how they affect the local community across Marion and Polk counties.

The CAT also advises the activities for the Oregon Parenting Education Collaborative (OPEC) grant for Marion County, focusing on providing parent education resources. The ultimate goal is to position parent education as a normal activity for all families.

Contact Us to Join a CAT Meeting: [email address here](#)

### **Preschool Safety: COVID-19 protocols and immunizations**

All of the preschools we work with have significant COVID-19 safety protocols in place including social distancing, frequent sanitation of all surfaces, and more. They have developed testing routines, conduct contact tracing, do temperature checks and strongly encourage parents to not bring their child to preschool if they show any signs of illness.

[Many of our preschools also encourage children to have these vaccinations by age 4.](#) You can help spread the word about the importance of immunizations by printing and sharing this information.

### **Help us put free preschool within reach for families**

We're here to help the families you work with find low- or no-cost preschool programs that meet their needs. [Download this list of preschool providers in English and Spanish](#), and share it with the families you work with.

### **Preschool Promise: directory of free preschools for qualifying families**

Preschool Promise offers free, high-quality preschool for 3 and 4-year-old children from income-eligible families, in a variety of classroom settings throughout Marion and Polk counties.

[See our Preschool Promise Directory](#), where parents can search for schools by location, educational focus, expertise, languages spoken, and more. Photos of provider facilities are included with each listing.

**[PRESCHOOL PROMISE ONLINE DIRECTORY \(BUTTON\)](#)**

Children who experience high-quality preschool are more likely to graduate from high school, hold a job and make more money, and are less likely to commit a crime than peers who do not.

**[See the Evidence Base on Preschool Education](#)**