

Press Release: Early Childhood Education Public Forums

The Dennis-Yarmouth and Monomoy Regional School Districts with the Cape Cod Collaborative have received a planning grant to form partnerships across public schools and community-based preschools. This grant is for the purpose of developing a strategic plan for the expansion of families' access to preschool and early childhood education. The increased opportunities and access will be for all children between the ages of 2.9 and 5 years to be able to attend a high-quality, licensed preschool.

Public input is essential! Public Forums are being held so that all members of our communities have the chance to provide insights – ideas, suggestions, and comments – into this planning for increasing access to preschool opportunities. Members of the Grant Planning Committee as well as strategic-planning consultants, Dr. Chris Martes and Titus DosRemedios of Strategies for Children, will be present to share information, hear comments, and answer questions.

The first Public Forum will be held at Harwich Community Center, Activity Room #3, on Thursday, April 7th, from 7 to 8 p.m. The Harwich Community Center is located at 100 Oak Street, Harwich.

The second Public Forum will be held at Station Avenue Elementary School, 276 Station Avenue, South Yarmouth. This Forum will be on Thursday, April 14, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Parents and grandparents, community leaders, educators, and all interested persons are invited to attend either Forum, regardless of your community residence. Information will be shared about both early childhood education and the grant. Also, the Planning Committee will seek input on other details that are needed to develop a feasible strategic plan. Comments and suggestions as well as questions about the grant and plan are welcome.

We need your ideas and thoughts on the possibility of greater availability for preschool experiences for children mid-Cape.

If you cannot attend, please feel free to contact any member of the Preschool Expansion Planning Committee or one of the specific members listed below:

Carole Eichner, Principal, M.E. Small Elementary School (eichnerc@dy-regional.k12.ma.us)

Sherry Santini, D-Y Director of Humanities (santinis@dy-regional.k12.ma.us)

Mary Oldach, Assistant Principal (moldach@monomoy.edu)

Francie Joseph, Birth to Five Coordinator Harwich & Chatham (fjoseph@monomoy.edu)

Dotti McDevitt, Owner/Director/Educator, Child's Wonderland (childswonderland@netzero.com)

Laurel Galvin, Owner/Director/Educator, Northside Nursery School (laurel.galvin@comcast.net)

Jan Rotella, Grant Manager, Cape Cod Collaborative (j.rotella@capecodcollaborative.org)