

From: Britt Zimmerman
To: [JWMED Exhibits](#)
Subject: The Power of Early Childhood Education
Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 11:04:28 AM

In the fourth year of being director of The Learning Loft Preschool I am overcome with a sense of pride and accomplishment. Our little program in Southern Oregon has grown from 12 students in 2013 to 98 students in 2017. This growth is due to the incredible partnerships we have developed over the last four years and the funding that we have received to provide preschool opportunities to children that may not have received services otherwise.

In the past four years I have served over 50 students with special needs due to our partnership with Early Intervention Early Childhood Special Education. These children have been the light in our program, and have been proof that when children with special needs are provided with a community preschool experience, all children benefit. I have watched children learn sign language due to a deaf child being in the classroom and children create lasting and beautiful friendships with children on the autism spectrum.

In the past year I have served 33 students who have been able to attend a high quality preschool program that they could otherwise not have afforded due to the Preschool Promise scholarship. When I offered this scholarship to parents I was overcome with the gratitude and need that was in our community. These were families that didn't make the cut off for Head Start or were on a wait list, and would otherwise not have been able to attend preschool. These are children who are thriving in our environment and ARE going to succeed in Kindergarten. These are single moms, families in crisis and children who felt lost, who now have a home and a community.

The partnerships and support that the funding of Early Childhood Education have provided The Learning Loft Preschool impact children EVERY SINGLE DAY. Without this funding these children will again be lost. Please consider these individual children when making decisions about our current budget and future legislation, thank you.

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