



Early Learning Showcase

May 21, 2026

C-I Early Learning: Serving Students and Families from the Start

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Areas of oversight:

**Early Childhood Family
Education**

Preschool
Assistant Coordinator:
Becca Dey

Early Childhood Screening

Early Childhood Special Education
ECSE Coordinator:
Julie Sandquist



Agenda for Tonight



Click the image to view a larger version of the Pyramid Model

Pyramid Model: Social Emotional Development



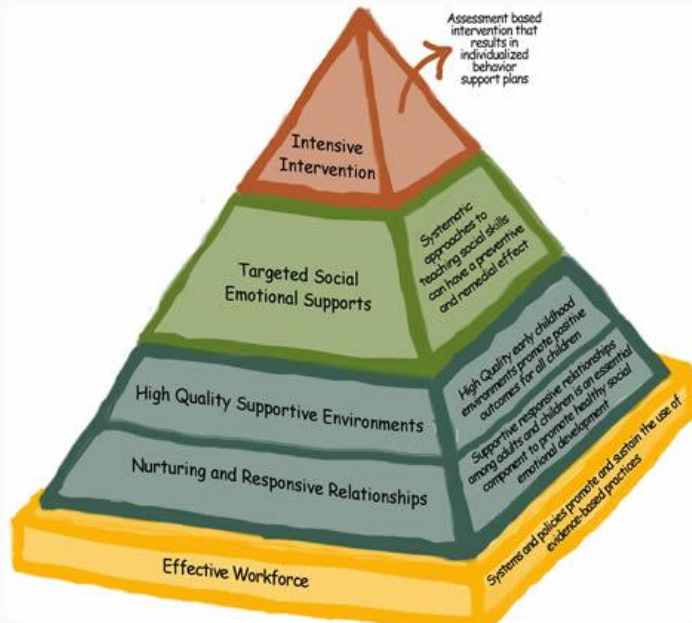
Catalyst Approach: Mindsets and Classroom Support



Early Literacy Growth



Pyramid Model: Building Social Emotional Foundations



The Pyramid Model for Supporting Social Emotional Competence in Infants and Young Children

Evidence-based, Multi-tiered Framework

Tier 1

Nurturing & Responsive Relationships

Tier 2

Targeted Social & Emotional Supports

Tier 3

Intensive Interventions



Core Practices that Support Every Student, Every Day

5 Classroom Pyramid Model Practices

1. Use a 5:1 ratio of positive attention
2. Use predictable schedules
3. Establish routines
4. Directly teach behavioral expectation
5. Directly teach peer-related social skills



Teaching Skills Students Need to Thrive



- **Friendship Skills**
 - *Asking a friend to play, cooperating*
- **Problem Solving Skills**
 - *Sharing, self regulation*
- **Emotional literacy**
 - *Recognizing emotions in themselves & others*
- **Behavior expectations**
 - *What we want them to do, not what we don't want them to do*



Student Demonstrations

Visual schedules



Solution Kit



Tucker the Turtle



The Catalyst Approach: Connection, Clarity and Classroom Support

What is the Catalyst Approach?

A framework for teaching and classroom management that emphasizes connection, high-impact instruction, and proactive support rather than reactive behavior management. All staff have received training.

Classroom Support

All classrooms have received coaching and most teachers have attended a site visit



How Pyramid Model and Catalyst Work Together

Relationships

Pyramid Model: Build secure attachments.

Catalyst: Manage your own tone and body language.

Transitions

Pyramid Model: Minimize wait time.

Catalyst: Use visual directions and staggered starts.

Expectations

Pyramid Model: Teach rules clearly.

Catalyst: Use non-verbal cues to reinforce rules.

Engagement

Pyramid Model: Keep children actively involved.

Catalyst: Adjust volume and pacing to match energy.

The combination of non-verbal and visual cues reduces the cognitive load for children



Early Literacy: Building a Foundation for Reading Success

Professional Training

All teachers trained in LETRS
MN READ Act requirement

Enhanced literacy instruction

Oral language & vocabulary

Repeated Read Alouds

What is it bag

Letter knowledge

Letters Have Names

Phonological awareness

Letters Have Sounds

Rhyming & Nursery Rhymes

Syllables (Hickety Tickety)



Why Preschool Literacy Matters

Research shows that children who enter kindergarten with:

- **Strong phonemic awareness**
- **Alphabet knowledge**

Are significantly more likely to read at grade level by 3rd grade

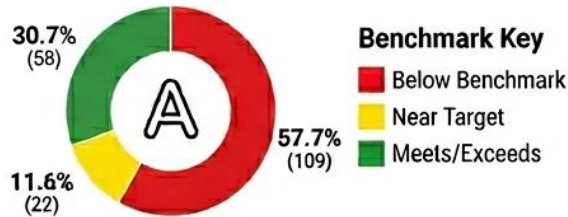


What We Assess

C-I Schools Early Childhood Literacy Data: Fall and Spring

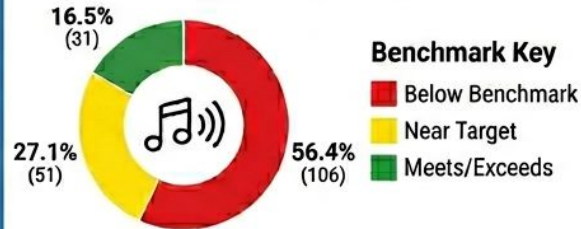
LETTER NAME

Letter Name - Fall



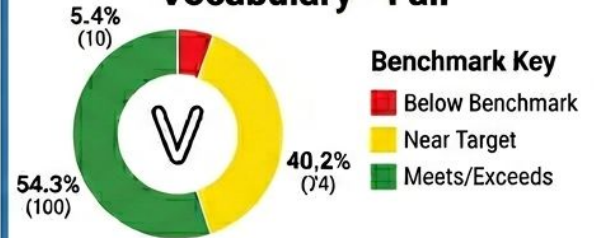
LETTER SOUND

Letter Sound - Fall

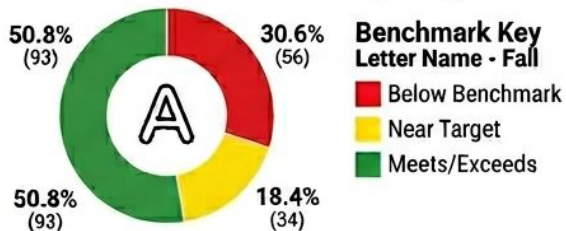


VOCABULARY

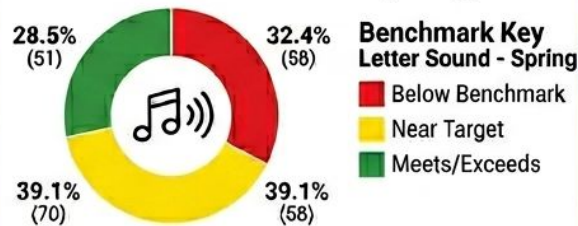
Vocabulary - Fall



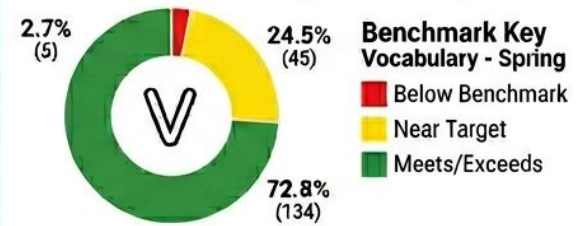
Letter Name - Spring



Letter Sound - Spring



Vocabulary - Spring



What the Data Tells Us

Students are exiting preschool at or above target levels.

Letter Names 68.5% Letter Sounds 66%
Oral Language 97%

Evidence-Based Benchmarks

Benchmark levels for the IGDI's are based off of developmental research.

ECIP's Literacy Focus

MN Early Childhood Indicators of Progress focus on:

- Sounds & sound segments
- Naming familiar letters
- Letter sounds
- Rhyming



How the Teams Use Data



- Using PLC time to analyze the data using *Look, Think, Act*.
- Data-based decision making to inform instruction.
- Compiling and training all staff on effective embedded strategies to increase literacy exposure.



Looking Ahead: Strengthening and Supporting Literacy

- Professional Learning Communities (PLC's)
- Professional Development on literacy instruction and the Early Childhood Indicators of Progress literacy standards
- Partnership with Teaching and Learning team



Bluejackets Start Here!

