



CITY COUNCIL

ROUNDTABLE/WORKING MEETING

~ AGENDA ~

Tuesday, October 10, 2017

6:30 PM

Sullivan Chamber

Roundtable/Working Meeting

1. Early Childhood Education Presentation

Early Childhood Joint Roundtable

Cambridge City Council and Cambridge School Committee

October 10, 2017

Birth to 3rd Grade Partnership

- ❑ Formed as a result of 2015 Early Childhood Task Force Recommendations
- ❑ Strengthened partnership between schools and city
- ❑ Supported by highly diverse Steering Committee



Expanding Access to & Improving Quality of Early Childhood Education



High Leverage Strategies:

1. Scholarships for very low income 3 & 4 year olds
2. Improve quality of pre-schools
3. Professional Development for early childhood educators
4. Expand access to information and support for families of young children

Year I Accomplishments

- Created 34 new seats for 3 & 4 year olds
- Expanded Early Years Project (behavioral/mental health supports)
- Supported Find It Cambridge
- Hired Early Childhood Director & Program Quality Specialist
- Developed scholarship and program quality improvement pilots



Year II Accomplishments

Scholarship Pilot

- 22 very low income children enrolled:

❖ Bigelow Cooperative Daycare	❖ Wildflower Montessori School
❖ East End House	❖ Peabody Terrace Children’s Center
❖ Violeta Montessori School	❖ Oxford Street Daycare Cooperative
❖ Children’s Village	

Quality Improvement Pilot

- 8 preschools participating in intensive program



Communication: Early Childhood Education Presentation (Roundtable/Working Meeting)

Year II Accomplishments-Continued

Professional Development

- 15 to 20 workshops for early childhood educators

Support For Families

- Expanded Early Years Project
- Added fatherhood staff for Baby U and Center for Families
- Created walk-in support for Find It Cambridge at 3 sites



Lessons Learned

- Expand outreach for scholarship program
- Enhance system of support to preschools & scholarship families
- Create cohorts of 3 to 5 children receiving scholarships at each preschool



Next Steps

Expand Access to Early Education and Care

- Increase numbers of children receiving scholarships
- Study of options to expand access to four year old programs

Focus on Family Childcare

- Develop system of quality improvement and support

Strengthen and Expand Home Visiting Programs (birth to age 3)

Expand Family Support and Education Programs

