

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MCBDD Windfall Preschool Recognized as a Quality Learning and Development Program**

**Medina, Ohio, April 9, 2018** – The Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities (MCBDD) is pleased to announce that Windfall Preschool has received a Five-Star Step Up to Quality Award from the state of Ohio, the highest rating a preschool may receive.

Step Up To Quality is Ohio’s rating system to recognize an organization’s commitment to quality and an ongoing dedication to the learning and development of children. Participating programs are able to earn a one to five star rating based on an on-site review process.

“The success of our program is truly a reflection of the families we work with who empower us to become better educators,” said Dr. Kaye Stanley Bryson, MCBDD Director of Children’s Services. “It is only through the combined efforts of our students, their families, our staff, and board members, that we were able to reach this important level of recognition.”

In order to receive a five star rating, a program must have low staff to child ratios, plan activities that support learning and development goals for each child, planfully support a child’s transition from a preschool to a school setting, work with other organizations or businesses within the community to support children and their families, and use input from families and community partners to continuously improve their processes.

The MCBDD’s Windfall Preschool provides educational opportunities to help preschool aged students with and without disabilities achieve success. Windfall Preschool offers an integrated program, which means classes are made up of typically developing students (peer students) as well as children with disabilities.

“We are proud that we are able to provide a resource such as the MCBDD’s Windfall Preschool to our community and especially to the families who need us most,” said Bryson. “We know that children have approximately 1,892 days from birth until school starts, and every day matters. It is important to us that children of all abilities develop their self-confidence, social and emotional skills, and a love of learning during that time.”

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**Photos included:**

*MCBDD Windfall Preschool 1 –Preschoolers Adrian Suskiewicz (l) and Sergio Serra (r) celebrate everything Dr. Seuss at the MCBDD’s Windfall Preschool which recently received a Five-Star Step Up to Quality rating from the State of Ohio*

*MCBDD Windfall Preschool 2 - Preschoolers Sergio Serra (l), Adrian Suskiewicz (c), and Emma Baciak (r) enjoy playing together at the MCBDD's Windfall Preschool which recently received a Five-Star Step Up to Quality rating from the State of Ohio.*

***About MCBDD***

MCBDD is the lifeline which connects children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families to important resources such as educational opportunities and employment skills programs. The mission of the Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities is to promote and empower over 1250 children and adults with developmental disabilities, from birth to death, to live, learn work and socialize in their communities.