

Date

Dear Families,

Montana is known for its natural resources. Those of us dedicated to high quality early experiences for children know that our most precious resource of all is our children . . . your children!

We are pleased to announce that your child's teacher or caregiver has joined a group of professionals in early care and education in Montana by being named to ***The Montana Practitioner Registry***. These are the truly important people who form relationships with you and your child to help you navigate through the early years of your child's life by providing safe, nurturing and enriching learning environments for your child while you are working, going to school, or otherwise unable to be with your child.

The Registry is voluntary and requires verification of education, training and experience in the early childhood field. Your child's teacher or caregiver has received a certificate that shows their level on the Montana Early Childhood Career Path. It is one component of Montana's coordinated system of career development in alignment with national efforts to improve the quality of early care and education across the country. *The Registry* requires annual professional development and training in early childhood above and beyond state child care licensing law. It also creates opportunities for ongoing quality improvement through incentives, scholarships, and awards to both programs and individuals!

We encourage you to show your appreciation to your child's teacher or caregiver who is now current on *The Montana Practitioner Registry*. Join other parents in your program or community to say thanks in your own special way!

The Montana Early Childhood Project