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

b3
Birth to 3rd Grade
Partnership

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

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
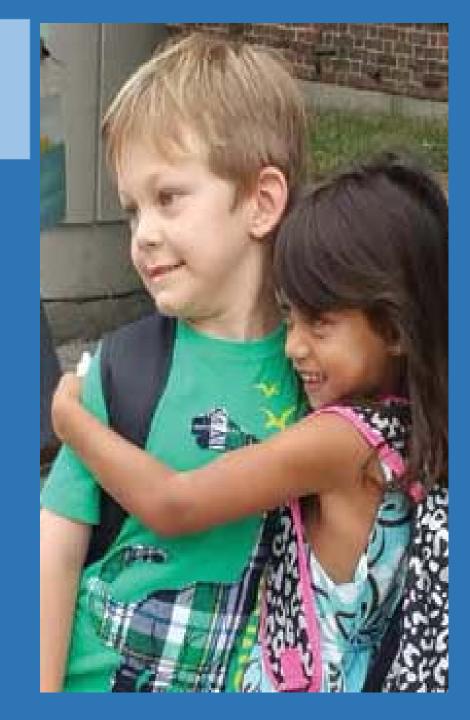- Created walk-in support for Find It Cambridge at 3 sites

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