



BROWN COUNTY SCHOOLS EARLY EDUCATION

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Brown County Schools Receives \$500,000 Grant to Support Brown County Infants and Toddlers. The Brown County Schools Early Education Center located in Nashville will expand to include high-quality care and education for 8 infants and 10 young toddlers. The program will also give Early Childhood Education students at Brown County High School direct experience caring for and educating young children during their most formative years as part of their dual credit coursework.

NASHVILLE, INDIANA – Brown County Schools announced today that it is one of 68 communities and organizations joining the Early Years Initiative through a \$500,000 grant to help meet the developmental needs of infants and toddlers and surround Hoosier families with the resources to make the most of the crucial years of learning from birth to age 3. This is the second round of grants in the Early Years Initiative, which began in 2023 and is made possible by \$60 million in grants from Lilly Endowment Inc. The goal of the initiative is to ensure Indiana’s infants and toddlers develop the foundational knowledge and skills needed to support their future learning and development. In total, the initiative has awarded 154 grants to 133 organizations.

Through its grant, Brown County Schools will reconfigure space at their Early Education Center adding an infant room, a second toddler room, a laundry area, health room, and a family education area. The program will add to its existing childcare center license which now covers the ages of 22 months to 5 years of age. The facility will be the first of its kind in Brown County and unique within the Indiana Uplands Region with its connection to dual credit coursework for high school students. *“We believe that Brown County High School’s ECE Program located at our Early Education Center creates a much-needed area pipeline by graduating credentialed early educators ready for hire within our community and throughout the Indiana Uplands Region.”*

“Research is clear that a child’s brain develops most between birth and age 3, and that the neural pathways formed in these earliest years of life form the basis for all future learning and development,” said Maureen Weber, president & CEO of Early Learning Indiana. “That’s why the work of the Early Years Initiative is so critical. We must ensure supportive environments and responsive interactions between infants and toddlers and their caregivers to set the trajectory for their overall development and lifelong learning.”



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For more information about Brown County Schools Early Education Center and to stay up to date on its Early Years Initiative progress, visit [Brown County Schools Early Education Center](#).

About Brown County Schools Early Education Programs

Brown County Schools offers fully inclusive, low-cost, Paths to Quality Level 3, preschool education for children 3-5 years of age at Helmsburg Elementary, Sprunica Elementary, and Van Buren Elementary. In January 2024, the Brown County Schools Early Education Center became the only state licensed childcare center in Brown County serving children ages 22 months through pre-kindergarten age. Our early education sites are each authorized to accept CCDF and On My Way PreK vouchers. Our early educators hold a minimum of a CDA credential. The Early Education Center is open from 7:00am to 5:00pm Monday-Friday in alignment with the school district calendar in addition to an 8-week summer session.

About Early Learning Indiana

Early Learning Indiana is an expert and trusted voice on early childhood education that works statewide to provide leadership, advocacy and early childhood education services that continually improve the early learning landscape in Indiana. Early Learning Indiana operates 12 nationally accredited, high-quality Day Early Learning centers, a network of premier community-based centers used to advance the science of early learning, train the next generation of teachers and leaders, and instill knowledge and skills in the children we serve. Through regional and statewide programs, the organization works to ensure young children are empowered with essential skills to thrive in kindergarten and beyond. Learn more at [EarlyLearningIN.org](#).

About Lilly Endowment Inc.

Lilly Endowment Inc. is an Indianapolis-based private philanthropic foundation created in 1937 by J. K. Lilly and his sons, Eli and J.K. Jr., through gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical business, Eli Lilly and Company. While those gifts remain the financial bedrock of the Endowment, the Endowment is a separate entity from the company, with a distinct governing board, staff and location. In keeping with its founders' wishes, the Endowment supports the causes of community development, education and religion. Although the Endowment funds programs throughout the United States, especially in the field of religion, it maintains a special commitment to its founders' hometown, Indianapolis, and home state, Indiana.