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Area Lawmakers Congratulate Early Childhood Facility On Designation for Pilot Program

JEFFERSON CITY— Sen. Jason Crowell, R-Cape Girardeau, and Rep. Ellen Brandom, R-Sikeston, today applauded the Early Learning Center in Oran, Mo., for having been selected to participate in a new initiative to ensure safe and quality care.

As one of eight early childhood facilities in Missouri to be chosen, the Early Learning Center will serve as a pilot site for the national Strengthening Families Initiative, which will utilize early childhood education and child-care programs to prevent child abuse and neglect.

“Because childhood is such a formative time of one’s life, the care a child receives drastically affects his or her ability to do well in school, make friends and grow up to be a mature adult,” Crowell said. “With the Oran center’s participation in this program, we can learn how to pave the way for our youngest citizens, who are our future.”

According to the Missouri Department of Social Services, approximately 70 percent of all children under age 6 are in out-of-home care for at least part of the day. As a result it is increasingly important to educate early childhood professionals on the roles they play in protecting and nurturing young children and promoting their social and emotional development.

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