



MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

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Cape Girardeau Centers Benefit from Increased Early Childhood Education Funding

JEFFERSON CITY— Sen. Jason Crowell, R-Cape Girardeau, today announced that the number of Southeast children with opportunities to benefit from early childhood education will increase. Two early childhood educational facilities in Cape Girardeau will receive state grants to begin or expand early childhood services.

“Early childhood education is an integral part of making sure Missouri students are introduced to life-long learning opportunities,” said Sen. Crowell. “Education is the best investment we can make in Missouri’s future.”

The Early Childhood Start Up and Expansion Grants are issued by the Department of Social Services’ Children’s Division from the Early Childhood Development, Education and Care Fund. The Children’s Division has awarded grants to 14 facilities including \$106,000 to the Community Day School and \$106,000 to the Just Kids Learning Development Center, both in Cape Girardeau.

The Department of Social Services Early Childhood Start Up and Expansion Grants are provided to help childhood facilities establish or expand childcare programs serving children ages birth to 24 months. To qualify for a grant, a facility must agree to reserve 10 percent of its capacity for low-income children. The facility also must be licensed and begin the accreditation process. The grants are awarded to providers for a three-year period.

“Congratulations to the Community Day School and the Just Kids Learning Development Center for being awarded these grants,” said Sen. Crowell. “I know our community will benefit from these facilities’ initiative to provide quality early education.”

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