

Countdown to Kindergarten and beyond: learning begins at birth
Public Awareness and Community Engagement Campaign

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Clarkston Early Learning Network (CELN), created in 2012, is a network of individuals and over 25 agencies and groups committed to quality early learning in formal and informal settings for Clarkston's diverse families and their children birth to age 8 ;and

WHEREAS, starting April 2015 – August 2015 the Clarkston Early Learning Network seeks to build public awareness about the importance of the early years, the important role families' play, and the importance of home language. the Clarkston Early Learning Network seeks to foster connections between families, early learning programs, schools, public officials, and schools, and the community; and

WHEREAS, there are babies, infants, and toddlers in Clarkston who need and deserve caring adults who will talk, sing, and read to them to promote nurturing relationships and early language. From birth to age 3 are critical years in the development of language skills; and

WHEREAS, the Clarkston Early Learning Network is bringing together community partners and families to plan activities, workshops, and distribution of literacy and language materials and books to promote early learning and school transition.

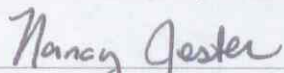
WHEREAS the more a baby hears during their first years in their native language, the better prepared they will be to learn English and other subjects when they enter school;

WHEREAS, Clarkston families, early learning providers , and others committed to young children have worked together over 4 years to promote the importance of the early years, home language, parents as the first teacher, quality early learning for each and every child, family engagement, and a successful transition into Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten

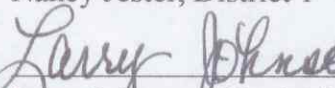
WHEREAS, CDF Action is the recipient of a W.K. Kellogg early learning and family engagement award to fund a Clarkson Families Decide initiative that includes an Early Learning Community Trust process, Family Leadership Workshops, and the Countdown to Kindergarten and beyond campaign.

NOW, THEREFORE, We, the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, do proclaim April – August 2015 as the Countdown to Kindergarten and beyond: learning begins at birth campaign in the City of Clarkston and greater DeKalb County and encourage Clarkston residents as well as the citizens of DeKalb County to be counted in support of early learning.

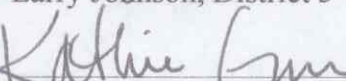
Proclaimed this, 28th day of April 2015



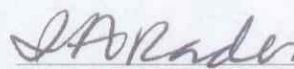
Nancy Jester, District 1



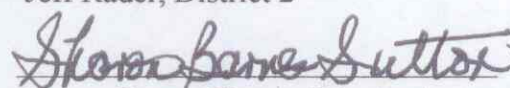
Larry Johnson, District 3



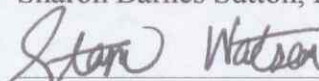
Kathie Gannon, District 6



Jeff Rader, District 2



Sharon Barnes Sutton, District 4



Stan Watson, District 7