Parent Mentorship Program

Free one-on-one encouragement, practical tools, and community support—built for parents and caregivers of children ages 0 to 8.

Every parent deserves a supportive community.

Raising young children brings exciting milestones and everyday questions, and you do not have to navigate them alone. The Early Childhood Coalition (ECC) Parent Mentorship Program welcomes **all parents and caregivers of children ages 0–8**—whether you are welcoming a newborn, preparing a preschooler for school, encouraging an early reader, or simply looking for a trusted fellow parent in your corner.

Priority is given to families living in ECC's 7-county Illinois service area: **Rock Island, Henry, Mercer, Knox, Henderson, Warren, and McDonough counties**. Parents who also work as early childhood educators are welcome to join the Parent Mentorship Program; they simply complete a brief check-in with the Program Coordinator to choose one primary role on the platform before matching.

Support Tailored to Your Child's Stage: Through one-on-one mentorship, trained parent mentors walk alongside your family with age-appropriate ideas and help you connect with trusted local programs whenever you need them.

Child's Age	Main Focus	How Mentors Support Your Family
Ages 0–3	Social-Emotional Development	Practical support centered on nurturing your baby or toddler's early emotional and social growth.
Ages 3–5	School Readiness Skills	Helpful ideas and encouragement to build confidence and everyday skills as your child prepares for school.
Ages 5–8	Literacy & Active Engagement	Support for encouraging reading, curiosity, and active engagement during the early elementary years.
All Ages (0–8)	Navigating Local Supports	Guidance through Early Childhood Supports and Early Intervention waitlists and evaluations (connected with Illinois Families for Early Intervention), plus referrals to Head Start / Project NOW, Two Rivers YMCA, Moline-Coal Valley School District, and IRIS (Integrated Referral and Intake System).

More Free Ways to Connect & Learn: Along with one-on-one parent mentorship, families in the program can take part in free, welcoming community learning options throughout the year:

Early Childhood Coalition — Parent Mentorship Program

- **Monthly Communities of Practice (In-Person or Zoom):** Join fellow parents on the **2nd Thursday of each month from 6:00–7:00 PM** at **P&J Tender Care** or online via **Zoom**. Sessions share practical, research-based tools from *Conscious Discipline*, brain research, *CARA's Kit*, and the *Pyramid Model*.
- **Circle of Security Cohorts:** Small-group learning opportunities designed to help parents and caregivers strengthen everyday connections with their children.
- **Free In-Person Books & Resources:** Check out helpful parenting and early childhood books in person *(materials are lent in person only and are not mailed)*.

Parent Participation Stipends: To honor your time and commitment, verified, active participants in the Parent Mentorship Program are eligible to receive a monetary stipend during the November 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027 program year. (Stipends are reserved exclusively for Parent Mentorship Program participants during FY2027.)

How the Program Works & Key Dates: All mentorship pairs connect using the **Qooper Mentorship Platform**. Before your one-on-one meetings begin, we guide you through platform training and a friendly Virtual Kick-off & Orientation so you feel ready and supported every step of the way.

Before a stipend check is issued, participants complete four straightforward steps:

- Submit a signed IRS Form W-9 (please note that ECCQCA issues a Form 1099 for tax reporting).
- Verify your current mailing address (returning participants re-verify each year so checks arrive safely).
- Sign the Commitment & Stipend Acknowledgment Form confirming active participation expectations.
- Stay actively involved and record mentorship meetings through the Qooper platform.

Please note: Under Early Childhood Coalition Bylaws (Article 4B), individuals receiving a stipend do not exercise Coalition voting privileges during the period they are compensated.

Program Detail	What to Expect
Program Season	November 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027 (Round 5)
Wave 1 Onboarding Launch	**December 18, 2026** — Onboarding opens in Qooper (completing profiles, orientation steps, and stipend forms)
Getting Started	Complete Qooper launch training and attend a Virtual Kick-off & Orientation session before 1-on-1 matching begins

Program Detail	What to Expect
Ongoing Support	Monthly Coordinator check-ins, quarterly feedback surveys, and access to Qooper Mentorship Assistant & AI Coaches
Monthly Gatherings	2nd Thursday of each month, 6:00–7:00 PM — in person at P&J Tender Care or online via Zoom

Ready to Join or Have Questions? Reach out to the Early Childhood Coalition Program Coordinator to get started with Wave 1 onboarding or to learn more:

Program Coordinator:

- Georgia Stear
- georgiastear@gmail.com

The FY2027 Early Childhood Coalition Parent Mentorship Program is made possible with funding from Birth to Five Illinois (INCCRRA) and the United Way Quad Cities Community Impact Grant.