



Exciting News!

We're excited to announce the launch of a new initiative designed to enhance early childhood care and education in our community. Thanks to a generous grant from the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), Austin Aspires and local in-home childcare providers have partnered to create P.E.P.P. – Providers Empowering Providers and Parents.

P.E.P.P. is a yearlong pilot program running through January 31, 2026, that provides in-home childcare providers with additional tools, training, and support. The program includes a strong focus on Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) and behavior guidance, delivered through weekly visits by Austin Aspires staff with backgrounds in psychology, social work, and education. These experts will use the Funshine Express early learning curriculum to support children's development and offer ongoing training and resources for both providers and families.

Some participating providers will also have access to a digital version of the program to ensure flexibility and reach. For more information about the curriculum and resources included in Funshine Express, please see the attached materials.

We're proud to bring this collaborative effort to life in support of high-quality early learning environments across our community. If you have any questions or would like to learn more, don't hesitate to reach out.

Together, we're investing in the future of our children and the professionals who care for them.