



## MI Farm to ECE Webinar Series:

### Farm to Early Childhood Program

---

Shaira Daya, MPH, RD

Farmington Community School Early  
Childhood Center

Abby Harper

MSU Center for Regional Food Systems

**MICHIGAN STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

Center for  
Regional Food Systems

# FARMINGTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

## ➤ Overview of Farm-to-Preschool (F2PS) Program



# OUR LOCAL PRODUCE PARTNERS

---

**MSU Tollgate Farm and Education Center: Novi, MI**

**Tantre Farm: Chelsea, MI**

**Kapnick Orchards: Britton, MI**

**Eastern Market (Various Farmers): Detroit, MI**

**Cherry Capital Foods: Traverse City, MI**





# SETTING THE FOUNDATION

---

## ➤ **Motivations**

- Help children develop a preference for fresh produce
- Engage students in hands-on healthy food activities
- Introduce children to new flavors, textures, colors of less familiar vegetables
- Increase reach and frequency of classroom nutrition activities
- Cultivate a sense of enjoyment and fun around fresh, healthy food

## ➤ **Ultimate goals**

- Start small and see what grows!

## ➤ **Create a Farm to Preschool Team**

# MATERIALS AND RESOURCES

---

- **Funding**
  - MSU Center for Regional Food Systems
  - In-kind from Farmington Community School Early Childhood
- **Kitchen Equipment**
- **Classroom Kits**
- **Nutrition Lending Library**
- **F2PS Activity Binder**



- **Tremendous Support from our Early Childhood Director!**

# FARM TO PRESCHOOL (F2PS) 2016-17 PRODUCE CALENDAR

Month	Farm Produce
September	Cherry Tomatoes
October	Broccoli / Cauliflower * Apples - MI Apple Crunch!
November	Winter Squash - various e.g., acorn, butternut, spaghetti squash
December	Carrots
January	Kohlrabi *
February	Cherries - MI Cherry Slurp!
March	Honey – served with plain yogurt and dried MI cherries
April	Parsnips (TBD) or shoots / sprouts *
May	Spinach or Asparagus

# FARM TO ECE IN ACTION

---

- **Head Start, GSRP and Community Ed Classrooms**
- **Monthly F2PS Event**
  - Integrated into snack program
  - Snack-sized portions
  - Hands-on learning experiences
  - Stories and songs
  - Visits from Farmer Will
- **MI Apple Crunch**
- **MI Cherry Slurp**
- **Local Produce for End of Year Picnic (Head Start)**
- **2016 Field Trip to Tollgate Farm**



# FARM TO ECE IN ACTION





# RESULTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

---

- **Kids Love it!**
- **Teachers are Supportive and Enthusiastic**
  - Classroom activities get easier
- **Farm-to-Preschool Committee is Essential**
- **Not as Expensive as Anticipated**
- **Winter Months (Feb – Apr) are Challenging**
- **Flexibility is Key!**
  - Program Design
  - Produce Calendar

# FCS FARM TO PRESCHOOL PROGRAM NEXT STEPS

---

- **Growing our F2PS program**
  - Parent Engagement and Education
  - Linking Farm to Food
  - Program Sustainability



**QUESTIONS?**

---