

My name is Marie Taylor and I was delighted to be named the Executive Director of Positive Bright Start in May 2023. I have previously led early childhood education in the Lawrence Public Schools and in Kansas City. I am a licensed early childhood teacher and school administrator. In addition to being an experienced instructional coach, I am a certified Trauma Smart facilitator with extensive collaborative experience in racial equity efforts and indigenous shared-learning initiatives. I hold master's degrees in educational administration and early childhood special education, as well as a bachelor's degree in human development from the University of Kansas. For the last decade, I have collaborated with Positive Bright Start on task forces as well as referring young children and their families to the many resources available at Positive Bright Start. The retiring executive director, Anna Jenny, has been a trusted colleague and I feel honored to be carrying out the legacy that Anna has created. Positive Bright Start has created a niche in the Lawrence community and I am excited to lead the organization into the next phase of its journey.

Our mission is to advance the development and well-being of young children and their families. Our vision is that every child in Douglas County has the opportunity to attain their fullest potential. A monetary donation to Positive Bright Start will immediately impact the early childhood community through increased high-quality early childhood education focused on social-emotional development, increased therapy for children under the age of 5, increased scholarships for families in need of childcare, and continued support of our home early childhood providers who utilize the Child and Adult Care and Food Program. Positive Bright Start supports the Douglas County early childhood community through its 4 programs. Please see the attached newsletter for updates on each program and giving opportunities.

I extend thankfulness and gratitude to you as you consider a donation to our organization. I believe that our organization fills a specific niche in the community for being a model of social-emotional development, early childhood mental health services, early childhood education financial support and promoting healthy eating. I believe we have exciting new heights to reach in the next year and your contribution will support us to achieve this goal.

-Marie Taylor, Executive Director