

WESTMAPLE'S RESPONSE TO THE MICHIGAN "GREAT START TO QUALITY" RATING PROGRAM

Westmaple Nursery School was founded in 1950 on a foundation of faith in Jesus Christ, a love of children and a passion to bring that love into the community by touching the lives of families. We have survived as the second oldest preschool in Oakland County because of our tradition of boldly sharing our love of Jesus, excellence in our curriculum and because of the recommendation, of now thousands of families who have experienced Westmaple's commitment to education and to families. A new rating system for preschools was recently adopted in the state of Michigan. It is called the "Quality Standards" and is part of the Obama Administration's Common Core Standards.

This program purports to "rate" preschools on a star basis from 1 star to 5. Schools who participate must use the "Quality" standards developed by some nebulous board and requires that schools use their chosen curriculum. After careful consideration, Westmaple Nursery School has decided NOT to participate in the Michigan Quality Standards.

Before I tell you the reasons why Westmaple's Board of Education objects to the program I would like to share that our Board is made up of former teachers, a former director and parents of children who attended Westmaple. Our Board is passionate about the education of preschoolers. They are committed to excellence in standards and curriculum. They feel that rather than adopting standards which are national in scope (part of President Obama's administration's Common Core Standards) that our standards are best left to be developed by Westmaple .

Therefore these are the reasons we oppose our participation

1. We refuse to allow our commitment to Jesus be diluted
2. We believe that curriculum standards should be developed and implemented at the local level
3. We believe that we should be independent of ANY government policies or standards
4. We believe that our standards are and have been more stringent than the government standards.
5. We object to the Quality standards which require politically correct "diversity" .

We hope that you understand our position and trust that we will continue our tradition of excellence and provide the best preschool environment for your children with experienced teachers who all have college degrees or beyond..