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Clinton County Report Card

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION IN CLINTON COUNTY

Early Learning in Clinton

Clinton County is a rural county located in Central Pennsylvania. The population of the county is nearly 40,000. Approximately 80% of the adult population graduated from high school, and nearly 13.4 have a bachelor's degree or higher education. The main industry in the county is manufacturing and the median household income in 2008 was \$37,494.

Children in Clinton County are at moderate to high risk of school failure. This determination is made when children experience risk factors such as living in economically stressed families, poor or no pre-natal care for the mother, parents with low education levels, abuse and neglect, and entering a poorly performing school system.

In Clinton County, there are 2,205 children under age five. Thirty percent (30.5) of 3rd grad-



Art is learning, too!

ers in Clinton County scored below proficient in reading.

Risk factors facing families within your county

- In Clinton County, 71.4% of children live in economically at-risk families
- In Clinton County, 24.2% of children under five were born to

mothers with less than a high school education.

- The average risk level for your county.
- Rate (Percent) of children under age five living in Low Income families for your county
- Percent of families with related children under age five living below poverty level for your county
- Percent of single mother-headed families with children under age five living below poverty level for your county
- Percent of children receiving aid through Technical Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) for your county
- Rate (Percent) of births to mothers with less than a high school degree for your county
- PSSA: Percent below proficient in 3rd grade for your county

Clinton County LEARN team

The Clinton County LEARN Team partners are listed on page 4 of this report card. You can see that the partnerships range over many agencies and relationships to raise awareness of how im-

portant quality early care is to the business community. It really is an economic driver!

Collaboration is the key to the transition process. For early childhood educators, forming a

kindergarten transition partnership with elementary schools can be the best ways to help students. In Clinton County, our work with the school district and the Intermediate Unit helps.

Major Events 2011-2012



Happy to Learn!

- **What is Typical Development?** This professional development activity for early care providers, parents, and professionals was held in April and co-sponsored by LICC and LEARN. It was well attended and help participants recognize “red flags” in the developmental life of a child. The training also helped with strategies to use to talk to

parents about these developmental issues.

- **PA One Book** was a feature of the year since the author made a visit to Clinton County. Zach O’Hora, who wrote and illustrated “Stop Snoring, Bernard!” came to Ross Library and captivated the children (and adults) with his commentary on being an illustrator and author. He told about his

projects, and showed the listeners a powerpoint presentation that featured his early art. Children quickly made the connection between childhood drawings that became an adult career. He was well received and showed his drawing techniques, taking audience suggestions. He also signed books for the children that brought them.

“Quality early education can bridge the achievement gap before it begins.”

Reach and Risk Report

Transition to Kindergarten

Going to kindergarten can be the biggest event in the life of a young child, and marks the first step on the path of formal schooling. However, the transition begins long before the first day of school, and extends through the school year. In order to best support children as they navigate this new stage, families, preschools and elementary schools should

work together to ensure that children are ready for the transition. Research shows that children who are prepared for kindergarten start out more motivated, better adjusted and ready to learn. Families who are involved in the process are more confident of their child’s abilities and are better able to advocate for their child.

LEARN has access to resources for families who are preparing a child for this transition. If you find that you need help with a transition action plan or transition timeline for the months prior to beginning kindergarten, please contact us for those items and many more helpful resources.

Parents as Teachers

A community of learners!



.Here are some tips for parents:

- Read to your child every day
- Play with your child. Play contributes to cognitive, developmental, and

social skills, in addition to boosting your child’s self confidence

- Participate in preschool parent/teacher conferences
- Pre-register your child for kindergarten at your local elementary school.

- Complete and update all necessary health forms
- Support learning at home
- Communicate positive messages to your child about kindergarten
- Participate in school activities

Goals for 2011-2012

Mission:

To educate, assist, and involve Clinton County families, businesses and communities in understanding and valuing the important role quality early care and learning plays in determining future success.

www.clintoncountychildcare.org

The website is designed to assist the early learning community and families on finding the highest quality care for young children.



Objectives

- To increase awareness of the impact of early care and educational issues upon the business community.
- To give the community tools to identify and select quality early learning and education.
- To educate the public on the true cost of quality early care and education.

Does Your Child:

- Know his full name?
- Know her age?
- Know gender?
- Know home address and phone?
- Know family members' names: mother, father, grandparents?
- Name different parts of the body?
- Know the names of coins?
- Know left and right?
- Know how to count 10 things?

"Quality early learning opens the doors of opportunity for every child to do well in school, in the workforce, in life" (PA Promise for Children)

OCDEL Programs

Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts:

PA Pre-K Counts was established by the PA Department of Education to bring quality half-day and full-day pre-kindergarten to 11,800 3 and 4 year olds in Pennsylvania. In Clinton County, 89 children participated in the program in 2011-12.

Child Care Works

This program provides low-income working families with access to child care, making them more likely to retain employment. In Clinton County, 163 children were served with this program in 2011-2012.

Early Intervention

This program serves children from birth to age five who have disabilities or developmental delays. In 2011-2012, 241 children and their families were served in Clinton.

Keystone STARS

Keystone STARS is a quality rating system for early education programs. It has 4 STAR levels. Each STAR designation has its own research-based performance standards. The standards measure areas of childcare:

- The staff employed and their training
- The safety and environment of the facility
- The business practices of the facility

In Clinton County, One-Third of providers are enrolled in the Keystone STARS program. Your LEARN team has been instrumental in showing the value of participating in the Keystone STARS program.

Pennsylvania Promise for Children

Quality early learning and child development play a major role in a child's future success in school and in life. Here are ways you can help our children reach their promise:

- Sign our declaration of support
- Learn simple ways that you can support early learning in the young children in your life
- Ask your employer to provide resources on quality learning opportunities

www.papromiseforchildren.com

Visit our website to learn more about early care and learning.



It's time for school!

Local Education and Resource Network



A Key Partnership for Early Learning

Clinton County Early Care and Education Initiative

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“Working for Clinton County Families”

Our Community Partners

- Lock Haven University
- Lycoming-Clinton Early Intervention Program
- The Infant Development Program
- Central Regional Key
- STEP, Inc. Head Start
- PA Department of Health
- Penn State Extension of Clinton County
- Downtown Lock Haven, Inc.
- Clinton County Economic Partnership
- Ross Library
- Lycoming-Clinton MHMR
- Central Intermediate Unit 10
- North Central Sight Services
- Lock Haven Express
- Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services
- Parent to Parent
- Clinton County United Way
- Clinton County Children and Youth
- Keystone Central School District
- North Penn Legal Services
- Clinton County Child Care Providers

How To Become Involved

The Clinton County LEARN team welcomes all interested individuals or groups to become involved to improve the quality of early learning in Clinton County. There are many ways to volunteer.

Your opportunities to help include writing letters, attending meetings, visiting with local officials and assisting in community outreach and transition events. If you would like more information, please contact Vicki Lewis.

LEARN ACTIVITIES 2011-12

- Distributed Child Care Employer information in collaboration with the Clinton County Economic Partnership.
- Hosted two Professional Development conferences for pro-

fessionals in the field.

- Staffed educational displays at the Children’s Festival, Healthy Kid’s Day, Clinton County Expo, Health Fair, and others.
- Distributed over 500 books in the PA One Book initiative. Books are given to children in a facility



Learning is fun!

and readers from the community volunteer to go in and read to the children. The PA One Book author this year came to Ross Library this year to read to children.

- Updated and published a Provider Directory for families to have a resource that will help them with childcare selection.
- Provided school readiness information at Kindergarten registrations and Open Houses.
- Held nine LEARN team meetings, always seeking new members and participants.
- Participated in developmental screenings throughout the county.