

2008-2009

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Our Events**
- **School Transition**
- **Child Care Website**
- **2009-2010 Goals**
- **OCDEL Programs**
- **Did you know?**

Early Care & Education Initiative

Report to the Community

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION IN CLINTON COUNTY

Quality Early Childhood Education in Clinton County

There are 2,055 children from birth to age five living in Clinton County.

Children are at High Risk of school failure in Clinton County.

30.4% of children under the age of 5 participated in publicly funded quality early education programs

Risk Factors affecting Children's Success in School

Family & Community factors affect how well young children, learn, leaving our at-risk children behind. Research has shown that children affected by risk factors such as poverty, family status, or poor school system, are more likely to

enter school behind their peers, struggle in school or drop out altogether. Risk factors like those are listed below can hurt a child's chances of doing well in school.

In Clinton County:

- 52% of children under the age of 5 live in low income families
 - 21.3% of births are to mothers with less than a high school education
 - 35% of 3rd graders scored below proficient on the 2008 PSSA reading test
- Research has shown that at-risk children who receive quality early education can catch up to their peers before kindergarten.
- Of children from birth-age 5

in Clinton County participate:

- 3.4% in PA Pre K Counts
- 13.4% in Keystone STARS
- 9.8% in Childcare Works
- 1% in Head Start Supplemental
- 2.3% federal Head Start
- 1.1% in Parent-Home program.



CEG coordinator celebrates Child Care Provider Appreciation Day in May.

Our Mission and Vision

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

Vision:
High Quality Early Care and Education is a valued priority.

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 care and education
- To educate the public on the true cost of quality early care and education

Our Events

How many children were served?

- 94 served by the Early Intervention Program
- 102 special needs children served at the Infant Development Program
- 20 autistic children served in special programs
- 97 children served by Head Start
- 42 children served by PA Pre-K Counts
- 750 children enrolled in licensed daycare/preschool programs

Outreach Events:

- Fall Family Festival
- Children's Festival
- Clinton County Expo
- Community Fair at Hoberman Park
- LHU health fair
- School Open Houses
- Legislative Brunch
- Business Breakfast
- PA One Book

- Child Care Provider Appreciation Day Proclamation from the Clinton County Commissioners
- Maintain Community Engagement Website (added a podcast feature)
- Kindergarten registration information
- Family nights at local elementary schools
- Head Start recruiting and enrollment



Celebrating Child Care Provider Appreciation Day!

It is nice to know that my child in receiving good care while I am work. It is easier to do well on the job if you don't have to worry about who is watching your child" Parent

Transition to Kindergarten

In April, the Clinton County Community Engagement Team partnered with local daycares and pre-school programs and Keystone Central School District to host a school transition forum for educators. Dr. Kent Chrisman, from Shippensburg University, presented "Solutions, Strategies and Suggestions for the Challenge of Transition:

Meeting the Needs of Children, Families and Schools". There was also a panel presentation by: Centre and Lycoming Community Engagement Team, Jersey School District's summer school, Head Start and Early Intervention.

- 95% of Kindergarten teachers and pre-schools attended.

- The event was so successful that a "Part 2" event is scheduled to take place in Fall of 2009 and will work to make sure that the Early Learning Standards that pre-schools utilize, will easily transition to the Kindergarten standards used by the Kindergarten teachers.

www.clintoncountychildcare.org

School Transition Panel



This website is designed to assist the early care and education community and parents on finding the most up to date information on emerging

issues related to early education. There is statistically information about the county and our risk to our children, as well as CEG meeting minutes, upcoming professional development opportunities for educators and families. There is also a

podcast feature in which participants can listen to up to date information on upcoming events. A childcare blog is also being developed and linked to the website in which families and providers and exchange ideas and suggestions.

Goals for 2009-2010

- To increase participation from community and business leaders and parents on the team.
- Work in collaboration with the Lycoming CEG to host a larger business/leadership event
- Increase the number of Clinton County children that participate in quality early education programs
- Establish a working and effective school transition team
- To increase outreach efforts to early educators, schools and parents
- Increase collaboration between pre-school and Kindergarten teachers
- Increase parent participation in updating legislators/officials on emerging issues



Guest Reader during PA One Book Week

“Our Children Deserve Quality Care....
 Parents Need it!
 Employers Count on it!
 Our Community’s Future depends on it!”
 Laurie Welch,
 CEG Coordinator

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 & 4 year olds in Pennsylvania. In Clinton County: 42 children participated in the program in 2008-2009.

Childcare Works:

Childcare Works is a subsidized childcare program to assist families in paying for quality childcare for qualified families based on a set of income guidelines.

Keystone STARS:

Keystone STARS is a quality rate system for early education programs. It has 4 STAR levels. Each STAR designation has its own research-based performance standards. The standards measure three areas of childcare that makes a difference in the quality of care your child receives:

- The staff employed
- Environment your child is in everyday
- The way a facility runs their business
- **In Clinton County:** Over 70% of providers are enrolled in the STARS program

Pennsylvania Promise for Children:

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

- Sing our declaration of support.
PA Promise for Children
- 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



Is your child ready to succeed in school?

Clinton County Early Care & Education Initiative

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Our Community Partners

Early Intervention Program
The Infant Development Program
Central Regional Key
Clinton/Lycoming Head Start
PA Department of Health
Penn State Cooperative Extension
Downtown Lock Haven, Inc.
Clinton County Economic Partnership
Lock Haven University
Ross Library
Children and Youth
Parent to Parent
Clinton County United Way
Lock Haven Express
Keystone Central School District
Clinton County Licensed pre-school
and daycare programs

Did you know?

- In the United States, an estimated 6 million children under the age of 3 spend some or all of their day being cared for by someone other than a member of their immediate family
- In Clinton County, there are over 2,00 children under the age of 5 years old.
- There are only 750 licensed childcare spots in Clinton County in 2008.
- Over 75% of Clinton County Providers are enrolled in the Keystone Star Program
- 2 Clinton County Daycares have reached a STAR 4 Level



CEG Coordinator staffing the ECE educational table at the Clinton County Expo.

[http://
qualitycareforyoungchildren.blogspot.com](http://qualitycareforyoungchildren.blogspot.com)

How to get Involved...

The Clinton County Community Engagement Team welcomes all interested individuals or groups to become involved to improve the quality of early education in Clinton County. There are many ways to volunteer from writing letters to the editor in the local paper, visiting with local officials and assisting in community outreach and school transition events. If you would like more information, please contact the coordinator, Laurie Welch.