

The Clinton County Early Care and Education Initiative Community Report Card
2003-2004

Vision Statement: High quality early care and education is a valued priority

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.

Objectives:

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

Did you know?

- In the US, 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
- There are over 6,000 children under the age of 14 living in Clinton County and only 700 registered child care spaces in 2003 and 745 in 2004?
- In the US, 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
- Communities such as Lock Haven and Mill Hall have an abundance of child care programs, yet residents living in Loganton must travel over 30 miles to reach a registered child care provider
- There is only 1 registered child care provider in Renovo
- There are no licensed child care providers in the county that will care for a special needs child

What has the Clinton County Early Care and Education Initiative done to address these issues in 2003-2004?

- Serves as Chair of the Clinton County Collaborative Board which meets on a monthly basis with a variety of agencies to address a wide array of community issues
- Developed and distributed educational placemats for local restaurants
- Hosted a Child Care Issues Forum for child care providers and the public
- Staffed an educational display at the Children's Festival in April in which @1,000 children and families attended

- Developed an educational display at the Clinton County Expo in which @9,000 residents attended
- Provided resources for Licensed childcare providers for Child Care Provider Appreciation Day in May
- Developed and distributed an updated listing of all licensed providers in the county
- Sponsored “What’s on Your Mind” educational radio program series in March
- Developed billboards in the community to educate the public about childcare issues
- Collaborated with the Early Intervention program to host a 5 series workshop to train childcare providers on how to teach children with a variety of special needs
- Collaborated with the Lock Haven University Small Business Development program to develop a training for childcare providers to expand their business
- Conducted programs in the underserved areas of Loganton and Renovo on how to start a Child care business
- Hosted a satellite workshop for providers and the public on “Cultural Perspectives of Parenting”
- Wrote and had published 4 issues of the Family Fun Guide through the Lock Haven Express
- Enhance the Early Care and Education Lending Library at Clinton County Cooperative Extension and the Ross Library
- Provided emergency weather radios to providers who attended emergency management training
- The Chair of the planning team successfully completed training and is a certified child care training through the PA Pathways Training System
- In 2003-2004 offered 32 hours of Act 48 and DPW credit hours to child care providers on topics such as:
 - Incorporating the Arts in Child care activities
 - Childhood Obesity
 - Improving Observation Skills
 - Operating a Successful Center
 - Playing with Young Children
 - Dealing with Anger
 - Working with children with special needs
 - Sun safety
 - Emergency Management Issues
- In Collaboration with Penn State Cooperative Extension’s Better Kid Care Program, trained 166 providers.

Early Care Services in 2003-2004:

The Infant Development Program provided services to 113 children in Clinton County from July 2003-May 2004.

80 children in Clinton County were enrolled in the Head Start parent/child reading program/

74 Children in Clinton County were enrolled in the Head Start Preschool Program.

Early Intervention

78 children ages birth-3 years received MH/MR Early Intervention services

Benefits to Quality Care and Education:

- Research indicates the skills learned in the first five years of life are critical to future school success
- For every \$1 invested in quality early childhood programs, there is a long-term benefit of \$8 in public savings by increasing the likelihood that children will stay in school and become employed
- Children demonstrate greater social skills as pre-schoolers, kindergarten and primary grades
- Children show greater motivation for learning and commitment to school and have better school attendance rates
- Demonstrate better classroom behavior and have better relations with teachers and classmates
- Parents who have access to quality childcare are more likely to maintain steady employment, contribute to the community and become productive workers and community members
- Keystone Stars is a state funded program to increase quality in child care center and group day cares homes. Participating providers earn a rating between one and four stars. The more stars, the higher quality. Clinton County has currently had 3 child care centers has a star rating: All Things Bright and Beautiful, Lock Haven Day Care and The Infant Development Center.