

The Clinton County Early Care and Education Initiative Community Report Card  
2004-2005

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
- In Clinton County, there are 2, 114 kids under the age of 5 years old.
- There are over 4,440 children under the age of 14 living in Clinton County and only 740 registered child care in 2005?
- The Infant Development Program is not a day care, but has 42 spots available for special services and pre-school.
- Communities such as Lock Haven and Mill Hall have an abundance of child care programs, yet residents living in Loganton and Renovo must travel over 30 miles to reach a registered child care provider
- In 2003 there were no licensed child care providers in the county that will care for a special needs child. In 2005, we have 1 licensed provider that cares for children with special needs.

What has the Clinton County Early Care and Education Initiative done to address these issues in 2004-2005?

- 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
- Conducted a business survey to find the needs surrounding childcare by local employers
- Hosted a Child Care Focus group for child care providers to survey their needs and the needs of their clients

- Staffed an educational display at the Children's Festival in April in which @1,000 children and families attended
- Staffed an educational display at the YMCA Healthy Kids Day Event
- 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 educational radio advertisements on how to choose quality childcare
- Developed billboards in the community to educate the public about childcare issues
- Collaborated with the Early Intervention program to host a variety workshops to train childcare providers on how to teach children with a variety of special needs and work with cultural diverse children and families
- Collaborated with the Lock Haven University Small Business Development program to develop a training for childcare providers to expand their business
- Offered programs in the underserved areas of Loganton and Renovo on how to start a Child care business
- Wrote and had published 6 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
- Developed in collaboration with Emergency Management and local childcare providers an emergency notification phone chain
- The Chair of the planning team maintains the status of a certified child care training through the PA Pathways Training System
- Conducted a regional training on Facility Training Plan, Core Body of Knowledge and Professional Development Record for childcare providers enrolled in the Keystone Stars program.
- In 2004-2005 offered 30 hours of Act 48 and DPW credit hours to child care providers on topics such as:
  - Child Observation
  - Incorporating Early Intervention into Community and Preschool settings
  - See as a Child, Feel as a Child
  - Vision Impairment Training
  - The Ins and Outs of Circle Time
  - Building and Growing a Successful Daycare business
  - Legal Issues in Childcare
  - Implementing, Supporting and Using Good Child Observations
  - Cultural Diversity for Child Care Providers
  - Easy Ways to Boost Kid's Brain Power
  - Changing Spaces
- In Collaboration with Penn State Cooperative Extension's Better Kid Care Program, trained 170 providers.

### Early Care Services in 2004-2005:

The Infant Development Program provided services to 115 children in Clinton County from July 2004-June 2005.

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

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

### Early Intervention

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

98 children were enrolled in the Intermediate Unit program

### 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 5 child care centers has a star 1 rating: All Things Bright and Beautiful, Lock Haven Day Care, Mom's. Bonnie Young Family Daycare and The Infant Development Center. There are 5 facilities that are have enrolled in the start with stars program: Your Guardian Angel, Lock Haven YMCA, Cathy's Gingerbread Daycare, Little Lambs Daycare and Cheryl Overdorf daycare.

For more information: Contact Laurie Welch at 726-0022 or visit [www.clintoncountychildcare.com](http://www.clintoncountychildcare.com)

