

The Clinton County Early Care and Education Initiative
2006-2007 Community Report Card

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 750 registered child care spots in 2007?
- The Infant Development Program is not a day care, but has 42 spots available for special services and pre-school and added a classroom for 12 children with autism.
- 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
- Prior to 2005 there were no licensed child care providers in the county that was able care for a special needs child. In 2005, the one 1 licensed provider that cares for children with special needs increased capacity with specialized training and materials (provided by the Initiative and Pennsylvania Department of Health funding) to take an additional 10 children in 2005-2006 and in 2007 continues to serve this special group.

What has the Clinton County Early Care and Education Initiative done to address these issues in 2006-2007 ?

- 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
- Provided free school readiness information for parents of children enrolling in Kindergarten in the Keystone Central School District, the Lock Haven Catholic and Christian Schools and the Charter School.

- 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 which @1,000 children and families attended last year
- 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 and promote Keystone Stars, PA Promise for Children and Pre K Counts Initiative
- 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
- Develop and maintain a website that provide early care and education information (www.clintoncountychildcare.org)
- Wrote and had published 6 issues of the Family Fun Guide through the Lock Haven Express in collaboration with community agencies and the Keystone Central School District
- Worked with the downtown Manager, Maria Boileau and the Clinton County Economic Partnership to educate the business community on early care and education issues by hosting a business forum
- Enhance the Early Care and Education Lending Library at Clinton County Cooperative Extension and the Ross Library and their branch libraries
- Tested and updated 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
- Worked in collaboration with Penn State Cooperative Extension and licensed child care provide to review PDR to ensure they are meeting the training requirements for the Keystone Stars program.
- Worked with the local Interagency Coordinating Council to offer specialized trainings and screenings for children
- Hosted a legislative luncheon to update local officials on the accomplishments of the engagement team and new initiatives
- Coordinated the PA One Book Initiative in Clinton County
- Served on the planning committed for the Pre K Counts Initiative
- Worked with local childcare providers and the school district to host a school transition experience for children ready to enter kindergarten

- In 2006-2007 offered 30 hours of Act 48 and DPW credit hours (and CEU's) to child care providers on topics such as:
 - Child Observation
 - Keeping Children Healthy and Safe
 - Turn good play into Great Play
 - Childhood Obesity
 - School Readiness and Early Learning Standards
 - Cultural Diversity for Child Care Providers
 - Bullying
 - Directors Training: Running Effective Staff Meetings
 - Autism Spectrum Disorders

- In Collaboration with Penn State Cooperative Extension's Better Kid Care Program, trained 300 providers.
- Coordinated and presented at a Regional Childcare "Early Years" conference

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
- A new Family Provider, Hummingbird Group Daycare opened in spring 2007.
- 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 6 child care facilities that are STAR 1: Bonnie Young Family Daycare, Lock Haven YMCA Child Care, Cathy's Gingerbread Daycare, Building Blocks Childcare, Mom's Daycare and the Infant Development Program. There are 2 child care centers that have reached STAR 2: All Things Bright and Beautiful and the Lock Haven Day Care Center. There are 4 facilities that are have enrolled in the start with stars program: Tanya Reeder's Little Lamb Daycare, Lock Haven YMCA (Lamar Twp), Barnes Group Daycare and Wise Family Daycare.

For more information: Contact Laurie Welch at 726-0022 or visit www.clintoncountychildcare.org