

2009-2010

HIGHLIGHTS

- Risk and Reach Report
- Transition to Kindergarten
- Our Mission and Vision
- OCDEL Programs
- Community Partners
- CEG activities in 2009-2010

“Pennsylvania is rich in natural resources, but it is our greatest resource, our young children, that will lead us into the future”

(Pa Promise for Children)

# Early Care & Education Initiative

## Report to the Community

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION IN CLINTON COUNTY

### Risk and Reach Report

#### Early Education in Clinton County

Clinton County is a rural county located in Central Pennsylvania. According to the US Census Bureau, the 2008 population was 37,038, an estimated -2.3% decrease from 2000. Approximately 80.4% of the adult population graduated high school, and nearly 13.4% have a bachelor's degree or higher education. The main industry in the county is manufacturing. The median household income in 2007 was \$36,983.

Risk Factors: Family and 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 listed below can hurt a child's chances of doing well in school.

#### In Clinton County:

- There are 2,214 children from birth to age 5 living in Clinton County
- Children are at **High Risk** of school failure in Clinton County
- 28.5% of children under 5 participate in publicly-funded quality early education program
- 52.7% of children under age 5 live in low-income families
- 25.9% of births are to mothers with less than a high school education
- 30.7% of 3rd graders scored below proficient on the 2009 PSSA reading test

#### Quality early education program

Of Children from birth to 5 in Clinton County:

- 6.1% participate in Child Care Works
- 9.7% participate in Early Intervention
- 2.3% participate in federal Head Start
- 9.9% participate in Keystone Stars
- 1.2% participate in Parent-Child Home program
- 4.4% participate in Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts



# Transition to Kindergarten

In October of 2009 and March 2010, 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. Christine Remley and Dr. Denise Tyson, from Lock Haven University, Educators from schools and daycare/pre-school worked together to help develop a transition plan.



Getting the word out at the Expo!

On June 7, 2010, a workshop, “What Every Parent Wants to Know to Help Their Child Prepare and Successful” was offered to over 40 parents and providers. This workshop was led by two seasoned Kindergarten teachers that gave helpful suggestions and tips to help prepare their child for Kindergarten. There was plenty of time for parents to have all their questions answered. The workshop was held at the Ross Library so that parents could have a tour of the facility and sign their child up for a library card if they didn’t already have one.

*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*

[www.clintoncountychildcare.org](http://www.clintoncountychildcare.org)

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 statistical information about the county and our risk to our children, as well as CEG meeting minutes, upcoming professional development opportunities and community resources. Participants can view up to date information on upcoming events. There is also a podcast feature in which gives parents and providers valuable information.

Check it out!

Check out our blog!

<http://qualitycareforyoungchildren.blogspot.com>

# 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



Clinton County Commissioners sign "Childcare Provider Appreciation Day" proclamation.

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

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

"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: 70 children participated in the program in 2009-2010.

**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:** 1/3 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.papromisefor children.com](http://www.papromiseforchildren.com)

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

## **Clinton County Early Care & Education Initiative**

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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 volunteered from writing letters to the educator 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.

## **Our Community Partners**

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

# CEG Activities for 2009-2010

- Distributed Child Care Employer information in collaboration with the Downtown Business Manager and the Clinton County Economic Partnership
- Hosted two School Transition Forum for Early Care providers, Kindergarten teachers and school officials
- Hosted a parents as leaders event
- Staffed educational displays at the Children's Festival, Healthy Kids Day at the YMCA, Clinton County Expo, elementary school back to school nights, PTO meetings and Family Nights
- Hosted a School Readiness workshop for parents
- Partnered with the LICC to conduct developmental screenings
- Business breakfast and outreach meetings to legislators and other elected officials
- Enhance the Early Care and Education Lending Library at Extension Office and Ross library as well as provided educational resources for all licensed childcare providers for Child Care Provider Appreciation Day in May
- Developed and published a resource guide for parents and the community to utilize for childcare issues. They were distributed via daycare facilities, public library and county, state human resource agencies and website.
- Worked with the newly appointment Superintendent on School Transition issues
- The engagement team coordinator is a member of the Head Start review team and the Interagency Coordinating Council, PA Pre K Counts Advisory and State Keystone STARS Advisory
- Receive a cash and in-kind match from a variety of resources such as the, Lock Haven Express, WBPZ radio, Infant Development Program and Penn State Cooperative Extension..
- Provided school readiness information at Kindergarten registration