

2010-2011

HIGHLIGHTS

- Risk and Reach Report
- Transition to Kindergarten
- Pa One Book
- Our Mission
- OCDEL Programs
- Community Partners
- LEARN activities in 2010-2011

“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 LEARNING IN CLINTON COUNTY

Risk and Reach Report

Early Learning in Clinton County

Clinton County is a rural county located in Central Pennsylvania. According to the US Census Bureau, the 2009 population was 37,797, an estimated -2.9% 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 2008 was \$37,494.

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 2,124 children from birth to age 5 living in Clinton County
- Children are at **Moderate High Risk** of school failure in Clinton County
- 30% of children under 5 participate in publicly-funded quality early education programs
- 75% of children under age 5 live in economically at-risk families
- 24.2% of births are to mothers with less than a high school education
- 26.5% 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:

- 7.7% participate in Child Care Works
- 8.3% participate in Early Intervention
- 5.8% participate- federal/state Head Start
- 8.3% participate in Keystone STARS
- 1.2% participate in Parent-Child Home program
- 4.3% participate in Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts



Transition to Kindergarten

In October of 2010, the 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 early education department, led the workshop and educators from schools and daycare/pre-school worked together to continue to develop a workable transition plan for the county.

Pa One Book

This year's One Book, Every Young Child program worked with collaborating agencies throughout the county to serve as guest readers at local early learning facilities. The volunteers emphasized the importance of reading and engaged in conversations and activities around the chosen book, "Whose Shoes? A Shoe for Every Job" written by Stephen R. Swinburne. Over 500 books for distributed to children and teacher is early learning programs.



Children from a local daycare show off their "shoes" after reading "Whose Shoe's"

Our Mission

Mission:

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

Name Change: We are changing our name from Community Engagement Team (CEG) to Local Education and Resource Networks (LEARN)

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

www.clintoncountychildcare.org

This website is designed to assist the early learning community and families on finding the most up to date information on emerging issues related to early learning. The site provides statistical information for Clinton County and Pennsylvania, as well as LEARN (formally CEG) meeting times, upcoming professional development opportunities for professionals and families and community resources. There are also podcasts in which families and providers can listen for valuable information.

Check out and participate in our blog!
<http://qualitycareforchildren.blogspot.com>

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: 76 children participated in the program in 2010-2011.

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!

- Sign 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

My son attends PA Pre-K Counts and because of it, knows how to write his first and last name, count to 100 and knows all about many topics that he has studied throughout the year. If more money were placed into pre-school programs, such as Pre-K Counts, maybe we would not be spending as much on the students who did not get the limited programs later in life.
 -Michele Lommis, Parent

“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 LEARN team welcomes all interested individuals or groups to become involved to improve the quality of early learning 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.

Our Community Partners

Lock Haven University
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
Clinton County Children and Youth
Lock Haven Express
Keystone Central School District
North Penn Legal Services
Clinton County Licensed pre-school and daycare programs

LEARN Activities for 2010-2011

- Distributed Child Care Employer information in collaboration with the Downtown Business Manager and the Clinton County Economic Partnership
- Hosted a School Transition Forum for Early Care providers, Kindergarten teachers and school officials
- Staffed educational displays at the Children's Festival, Healthy Kids Day, Clinton County Expo, elementary school back to school nights, Keystone Central School District Health Fair, PTO meetings and Family Nights
- Distributed over 500 books to read to providers and children and utilized over 20 volunteers for the PA One Book Program.
- Partnered with the LICC to conduct 5 developmental screenings
- Business and leadership breakfast and outreach meetings to business leaders, 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.
- The team coordinator is a member of the Head Start review team and the Interagency and Coordinating Council
- 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 registrations and Head Start Open House
- Facilitated tours for pre-school children and their families with kindergarten classrooms.