

FOCUS

2011
Annual
Report

On Our Future

Goals

Enhance the quality of early childhood education in York County.

Promote school readiness by fostering relationships between early childhood education providers and school personnel.

Engage and support families regarding early childhood education and school readiness.

Serve as a resource to the community about the importance of high quality early childhood education.



Accomplishments

120 early childhood education programs are enrolled in Keystone STARS, 25 providers moved up a STAR level.

160 providers are enrolled in higher education programs, 30 earned their degrees.

150 families from Eastern, Northeastern and York City school districts participated in the 6 week "Ready Freddy" kindergarten readiness program.

450 early childhood educators participated in the Week of the Young Child recognition event.

350 early childhood educators attended the annual York Area Association for the Education of Young Children (YAAEYC) conference at Penn State York.

Kindergarten readiness materials were distributed to over 2,000 families through collaboration with area school districts.

■ Status of Early Childhood Education in York County

54% York County children under age 5 that live in economically at-risk households - Defined as 300% of poverty rate

10% York County children receiving Child Care Works

0.4% York County children enrolled in State funded Head Start and Early Head Start

1% York County 3 & 4 year olds being served by PA Pre-K Counts programs

21% Percentage of 3rd graders in York County school districts scoring below proficient on 2007 PSSA in Reading

12% York County children being served in Keystone STARS programs

0.6% York County families participating in the Nurse Family Partnership Program

8% York County children from birth to 5 receiving Early Intervention services



■ Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) Outcomes Show Growth in Child Development

For PA Pre-K Counts, a program for at-risk three and four year olds, 99% of the children showed age-appropriate or emerging age-appropriate language, math and social skills on a standardized assessment tool. Less than 25% of these same children entered the Pre-K Counts program with age-appropriate skills. Currently, 280 York County children attend Pre-K Counts programs. The programs are administered by Crispus Attucks, KinderCare, York Day Nursery, York JCC, York YWCA, and the York City School District/Community Progress Council (CPC).

Keystone STARS promotes quality improvement among child care programs through quality standards and increased requirements for ongoing professional development for teachers. Nearly all children enrolled in Keystone STAR 3 & 4 programs showed age-appropriate or emerging age-appropriate language, math and social skills. Less than one third of the preschoolers began the school year with age-appropriate skills. In a 2010 survey of more than 7,000 parents whose children attend a Keystone STAR 3 or 4 site, approximately 96% reported that the program and teachers' experience met their expectations. In York County, 31 programs are either a STAR 3 or STAR 4.

Less than one in five preschoolers enrolled in State funded Head Start began the year with age-appropriate skills. By the end of the school year, nearly all showed age-appropriate or emerging skills. The CPC operates Head Start.

Investing in Early Childhood Educators

For 15 years, the United Way of York County has been committed to improving the quality of early childhood education through the work of Focus On Our Future. Early childhood education allows parents to work, and employs thousands of York County residents. It is the foundation for future learning. We know that the best way to ensure that a child will succeed in school, graduate from high school, and become a productive member of society is to start them out on the right path.

The research of Dr. James Heckman, Nobel Laureate economist from the University of Chicago, shows that the greatest return on investment is from programs that are targeted to young children. The 40 year High Scope Preschool study shows that for every \$1 invested in high quality early childhood education we can save \$7 on costs associated with special education, teen pregnancy, high school dropouts, juvenile delinquency, welfare dependency and prison. Dr. Craig Ramey of Georgetown University found that for every 50 kindergarten children who experience difficulty in learning pre-reading skills, 44 or 88%, of them will not be reading on grade level in third grade. School performance in third grade can predict, with 90% accuracy, which children will go on to drop out of school. Therefore, it is imperative that we ensure that every child enters kindergarten with the skills necessary to succeed.



Focus On Our Future supports professional development for early childhood educators. In 2010-2011, 160 early childhood educators were enrolled in higher education programs and Focus On Our Future provided approximately \$45,000 in scholarships to them. Over the past ten years, 50 early childhood educators have enrolled in the Masters program at Penn State York. Over 50% have completed their degrees and 85% of them are still working in the field, helping children and the next generation of child care professionals every day. The other 50% are still working on their degrees; most are working full time. We are committed to providing a high level of professional development and training to early childhood educators.



■ Recognizing Early Childhood Educators During Week of the Young Child

Approximately 375 people attended the annual Week of the Young Child Recognition event for early childhood educators. They were there to celebrate the impact of high quality early childhood education on the children and families in York County. Week of the Young Child focuses public attention on the needs of young children and their families and recognizes the early childhood education programs and services that meet those needs. The annual recognition event is sponsored by Focus On Our Future and the York Area Association for the Education of Young Children (YAAEYC). Nava Ghalili, of Fox 43 News, served as the Master of Ceremonies, and Kurt Kondrich was the Keynote Speaker. Mr. Kondrich is a retired police officer who now serves as the Chair of the Governor's Advisory Council for Early Intervention. He is a passionate advocate for the importance of high quality early childhood education and early intervention programs. As a father of a child with Down's Syndrome, who is reading at grade level and an active participant in her second grade class, he knows first hand how quality programs support children and families.

This year, parents nominated approximately 100 early childhood educators for the Outstanding Provider Award, recognizing the teacher's hard work and dedication to their children. After a competitive application process, eleven teachers were awarded \$1,000 grants, to implement special programs in their classrooms. The teachers had designed the projects to provide additional opportunities for their children and families. A Children's Champion Award is presented to an individual in the community who does not work in the early childhood education field, but is a strong advocate and partner in supporting families and young children. This year's award was presented to George Eckenrode, CEO of Family-Child Resources, for his efforts to support the mental health needs of young children and their families.

The event does more than celebrate accomplishments of early childhood educators and the programs they serve; it recognizes the importance of their work on the future educational success of the children, which in turn will improve the economic viability of York County. It also affirms the connections and the commitments the early childhood education community has with each other. The variety of providers, home-based, center, Head Start, EvenStart, Early Head Start, preschool and PA Pre-K Counts programs all work together to provide a variety of programs to meet the needs of children and families. They share their knowledge and skills with each other working collaboratively on curriculum, professional development and classroom management issues. The early childhood education community, and its partners, learned a long time ago that by working together, in partnership with families, they can improve quality.

Ready Freddy Getting Kids Ready to Leap into Kindergarten

For six weeks, 150 children and their parents filled cafeterias and libraries at Eastern, Northeastern and York City school districts. As they arrived the children greeted old friends, shyly reached out to new ones and took their first steps on the path to kindergarten.

These families participated in the “Ready Freddy” school readiness program sponsored by the United Way of York County with funds from the Rehmyer Trust and the Office of Child Development and Learning (OCDEL). The six week curriculum was developed by Ken Smythe-Leistico from the Office of Child Development at the University of Pittsburgh. The purpose of the program is to help children and families feel comfortable with the transition to kindergarten.

The sessions are led by kindergarten and early childhood education teachers with the support of United Way of York County staff. Families have a chance to learn about the expectations and procedures of the district, ask their questions, tour the facilities, and meet school personnel and other parents. The children get an opportunity to meet new friends, learn how to function in a group of their peers, and see first-hand what a great place kindergarten is. The curriculum is



broken into six sessions that cover topics including identifying your child’s strengths. It also focuses on developing literacy, numeracy, and social skills. Each week, every child gets a free book, corresponding to the weekly topic, to take home and keep. Families also have home activities to extend the skills they learned while at “Ready Freddy”. The kindergarten teachers have seen amazing progress in the children’s skills and comfort level over the course of the six week program.

The families that participated in the program last year, were better prepared to handle the first day of school. School personnel have noted that the families are better connected to the school, participate in more activities, and are involved and active partners in their child’s learning.



100 Book Challenge Program Prepares Tomorrow’s Readers

Focus On Our Future sponsors the 100 Book Challenge Program for five early childhood education programs that feed into York City schools. This year over 250 children and their families participated in the program which provides books for families to read. The pre-literacy program encourages families to read to their child everyday, which research tells us is the best way to prepare them for success in school. The programs that participate include Crispus Attucks, EvenStart, York Day Nursery, YMCA of York and York YWCA. This year the children read over 37,500 books.

Supporting Children with an Incarcerated Family Member

Over the past several years, early childhood education programs have seen an increase in the number of families with an incarcerated family member. As a result, Focus On Our Future partnered with Family-Child Resources and Attorney Andrew Brown to design a training to assist the staff in working with these children and families. Family-Child Resources facilitated two workshops on the socio-emotional needs of children with an incarcerated family member. Attorney Brown, from Anstine & Sparler, concentrates on family law and is a member of the York Bar Association. He provided information on custody issues and visitation.



Nationally Accredited Programs

naeyc



York County has the highest percentage of accredited providers in our eight county region at 18%. This is three times the rate of the next highest county and more than double the national average of 7%. All of the York County centers that have applied for accreditation have achieved it, compared to the national success rate of 83%. The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) conducts on-site visits that review 425 standards, and the National Association of Family Child Care (NAFCC) review nearly 300 standards. The standards cover teacher-child relationships, physical environment, health and safety issues, curriculum, teacher training and business practices.

NAEYC Accredited Centers

Crispus Attucks Early Learning Center
 New Cumberland Defense Depot
 Kinder Care Learning Center
 Otterbein Early Education Center
 Hanover Area YMCA Association
 YMCA of York and York County
 York Day Nursery, Inc.
 York Jewish Community Center (JCC)
 YWCA of Hanover
 York YWCA, Market St.
 York YWCA, Manchester
 York YWCA, Queen St.

NAFCC Accredited Home-Based Providers

Tia Burns	Angela and Tom Leese
Tracie England	Dawn Sewell
Evelina Fair	Karen Shanafelter
Donna Gates	Barbara Tompkins
Margaret Horn	Spittissue Trinks
Sheri Karan	Glynda Zeller

Keystone STARS

Keystone STARS is Pennsylvania's program to promote continuous quality improvement in early childhood education. STAR levels correspond to the educational levels of the staff, scores on an independent classroom assessment and other standards with STAR 4 being the highest level. The following York County early childhood education providers participate in Keystone STARS.



Star One

- Almost Home Day Care
- Angela E. Ruby*
- Blessed Kids Childcare
- Brenda Schopf's Family Day Care*
- Children's Center at S. Mountain Elementary
- Creative Roots Early Learning Center*
- Cynthia Hankinson
- Dani's Day Care, Inc.
- Danielle L. Rodkey
- Daycare By Robin's Nest II
- Dover Bethany UMC Child Care
- First Church of the Brethren CDC
- Friendship Elementary SACC Center
- Growing Friends Child Care Center
- Jessica R. Gillin
- Karen McElwain
- Katalina Urresta
- Kreutz Creek
- Little Leprechaun Day Care*
- Loganville Elementary School
- Lots of Love Daycare/King*
- Lots of Love Daycare/Princess McKenna Rodriguez
- McKercher Group Day Care
- Miss Mary's Play Castle
- Scheivert Family Daycare
- Shrewsbury Elementary SACC Center
- Spring Grove Area Com Center*
- St. John Lutheran School
- St. Paul's Chapel Christian Day Care
- Stewartstown Elem. After School Center
- Stonybrook Kids Club
- Sunbeam Station Child Care, Inc.
- Tammy Blouse*
- The Shepherd's Fold*
- Tiny Tots Family Day Care*
- Today's Toddlers
- Wanda T. Rosado FDCH
- Wrightsville Elementary School
- YMCA Downtown Kid's Club
- York Hospital Child Care Center
- YWCA School Age/Copenhaffer*

Star Two

Bethany Christian Learning Center
Billie Ort's Laugh 'N' Learn
Canadochly Elementary*
Children's First Learning Center
Christ Church Child Care Center
Churches Affiliated Child Care*
Clearview Elementary School Age
Day Care By Robin's Nest
Day Care By Robin's Nest II*
Dover Kid's Club
End of the Rainbow
Hanover Area YMCA/Park Hills
Hanover Area YMCA/Baresville
Hayshire Kids Club
Heavenly Hands Day Care
Kiddie Academy Child Care
Kids First Daycare, Inc.
Kidsville Junction Child Care
KinderAcademy Early Learning*
KinderAcademy N Elem*
KinderCare Learning Center/Rodney
KinderCare Learning Center/Kenneth
Leib Kid's Club
Little Dreams Learning
Center/Ore Bank
Little Dreams Learning Center II
Little Lambs Learning Center
Nanny's Kids Child Care—
Haymeadow
Nanny's Kids Child Care—Market St.
New Creation Station Child
Care Center

New Salem Elementary School
Paradise Elementary School
Punkin Patch Child Care
Rainbow Junction
Roundtown Kid's Club
S. Hanover YMCA Children's
Learning*
Southern Elementary SACC
Spring Grove Elementary School
St. Jacob's UCC Child Care
Stillmeadow Church of the Nazarene
TLC Montessori
Toni L. Newman
U-Gro Learning Center
Weigelstown Kid's Club
West Manheim Elementary
Wonder Years Child Development

Star Three

1 Step at a Time*
Alisha's Little Rascals
Brenda Clinton*
Creative Kids Day Care*
Creative Kids Day Care II*
Delta Christian Academy &
Child Development
Good Shepherd Day Care
Jennifer Doll*
Kidsville Junction
Kindred Spirits
Little Blessings Day Care
Otterbein ECE—SACC Program*
Pamela Westbrook*
The Early Learning Center, Inc.

Star Four and/or Nationally Accredited

Amy Caudle*
Apples of Our Eye Family Daycare
Barbara Tompkins
Bob Hoffman Kid's Club
Crispus Attucks Early Learning
Center
Defense Depot Susquehanna PA
Delynn Bickle
Donna Apicella
Donna Gates
Evelina's Reach 1 Teach 1
Evergreen Hill Group
Daycare/Preschool
Glynda Zeller
Hanover Area YMCA Association
Child Care
Karen Nycum
Karen Shanafelter
Katherine S. Hartman
KinderCare—Northern Way
Kozy Kottage
Little Lads and Ladies Child Care
Margaret Horn
Otterbein Early Education Center
Sheri L. Karan
Sheron L. Smith
Spittissue Trinks
Tia Burns
Teresa M. Sampson
Tracie England

YMCA Child Care Center
York Day Nursery, Inc.
YWCA Early Learning Center,
Queen St.
YWCA of Hanover Day Care
York Jewish Community Center
YWCA Early Learning Center,
Manchester
YWCA Early Learning Center,
Market St.
YWCA Early Learning Center,
Queen St.
YWCA of Hanover Day Care

* Indicates Program Moved Up A STAR Level



■ Head Start of York County Programs

Head Start is a national program that provides comprehensive services to children and their families. This year Early Head Start was added to provide services to infants and toddlers. Community Progress Council/Head Start of York County administers programs at the following locations:

Canadochly
Cottage
Fawn Grove Home-Based
Glen Rock Home-Based
Jefferson
Jefferson Borough
McKinley
McKinley Elementary
Noell
Orendorff



■ PA Pre-K Counts Programs

The PA Pre-K Counts program, established by the PA Department of Education, makes quality pre-kindergarten available to at-risk children. The curriculum is based on standards developed by the PA Department of Education that align with public school standards. Each classroom has a Certified teacher. In York County, 280 children participate in Pre-K Counts. The program is administered by:

Crispus Attucks	York Day Nursery
KinderCare	York JCC
York City School District/CPC	York YWCA

Community Partners

- Better Kid Care
- Capital Area Early Childhood Training Institute
- Child Care Consultants
- Early Childhood Education Programs
- Early Intervention
- EvenStart
- Family-Child Resources
- Family First Health
- Fight Crime: Invest In Kids
- HACC
- Hanover Hospital Family Child Home Program
- Head Start of York County
- Healthy York County Coalition
- Keystone STARS
- Lincoln Intermediate Unit #12
- Martin Library
- Memorial Hospital
- National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
- Nurse Family Partnership
- PA Key
- PA Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL)
- Penn State York
- Pre-K Counts
- Rehmeyer Trust
- WellSpan
- York Area Association for the Education of Young Children (YAAEYC)
- York City Bureau of Health
- York City Police Department
- York College of Pennsylvania
- York County Office of Children, Youth and Families
- York County Community Foundation
- York County Home-Based Providers Network
- York County Safe Kids
- York County School Districts



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LIVE UNITED™

MISSION STATEMENT

To improve people's lives by building a strong community through cultivating financial generosity, volunteerism and civic engagement.



United Way of York County