



Clinton/Jackson
Early Childhood Iowa

2014 Annual Report: Executive Summary

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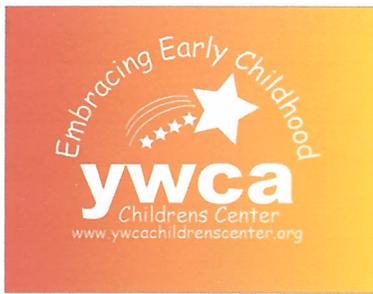
Services supported by and results of Clinton/Jackson Early Childhood's efforts

The ECI State Board Members and ECI TA Team visited four area Preschool/Child Care Centers during the two day event. The Clinton/Jackson ECI Board hosted the State Early Childhood Board Meeting on September 6, 2013. Roger Pavey, Executive Director, Community Action of Eastern Iowa, welcomed the State Board Members and shared our areas Early Childhood Iowa Investment Evaluation. The investment has resulted in QRS rating levels substantially higher than the Iowa average. The data reflected that 22% of providers in the State of Iowa had a QRS rating compared to 28% of providers in Clinton and Jackson Counties having a QRS rating. Source: [lowaccr.org\(9/13\)](http://lowaccr.org(9/13))

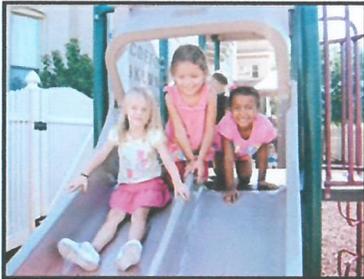
The Clinton/Jackson Early Childhood Iowa Board hosted our first Early Childhood Recognition Reception on September 5, 2013. At this event we highlighted the outreach and partnerships in our two county area. Senator Bowman welcomed the attendees who included our area legislators, State ECI Board Members, ECI State Technical Assistance Team, local ECI Board Members past and present, fellow local area ECI Director's and most importantly our collaborative partners! Each provider was asked to set up a display and showcase the programming they provide to families in our two counties. It was a wonderful evening!

Clinton/Jackson Early Childhood functions through a board of directors along with many community partners who are committed to developing and maintaining a collaborative system of needs-based services which are implemented at the earliest possible point of intervention. We do this to strengthen families in our community so that every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful! There are many opportunities to get involved. Please call (563)659-3651 or write to kreiter@clintoncounty-ia.gov





YWCA Children's Center
 317 7th Avenue South—Downtown Campus
 250 20th Avenue North—Lyons Campus
 Clinton, Iowa



The YWCA Children's Center in Clinton provides childcare until midnight, Monday-Friday for children aged 6 weeks-11 years old and was recently awarded a QRS Level 4. This DHS licensed program was established in 1998 to provide affordable, quality, reliable childcare for parents working an extended day or second shift or taking evening classes. Dinner and evening snacks are served family-style. Children are able to take advantage of swimming lessons, dance



classes, enjoy the outdoor playground, open swim and gym time at the YWCA while attending the 2nd shift program, along with regular trips to the library next door.

A large increase in preschool students was experienced in 2008 when the state of Iowa voluntary preschool program was awarded to the Clinton School District that the YWCA partners with. In that same year, the YWCA had a number of children enroll who were non-English speaking. To provide better communication between the students, peers, parents and teaching staff, a Bilingual staff member was added to assist in all areas of the children's education. Not only is she available to assist children in the classroom, but also with parent/teacher conferences, document completion, and visits to resource providers.



Early Childhood Iowa has been a generous supporter of both programs for children aged 0-5. Thank you!



A 2nd Shift Childcare program is vital in our area to allow parents to maintain employment or enroll in school to be productive citizens.

The Center is open from 5:30pm-midnight to serve the continued childcare needs of our community's families that extend past the end of the typical work day.

Details of the families enrolled In the past year:

- * 74% were single-parent families.
- * 77% were employed and 23% attended evening classes. Many were working in the retail, restaurant and healthcare industries, or in our local factories.
- * 59 eastern Iowa families were served last year, 53 from Clinton County, 6 from Jackson County.
- * 86% of the children qualified for free or reduced meals.

The Creative Curriculum[®] is utilized throughout the YWCA Children's Centers, including the 2nd shift program, to promote a stimulating environment for all development areas. Each classroom is organized for exploration and learning. Children have the opportunity to make individual choices, experiment and interact with others. Materials are stored within the children's reach and in containers or on hooks to access independently. Storage shelves are labeled with word titles and pictures for ease in organizing and clean up. A number of themed activity centers are open on varied days; included are blocks, art, toys and games, library, and dramatic play.

