

Clinton/Jackson Early Childhood Iowa



Counties in area: Clinton and Jackson Counties

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The purpose of Clinton/Jackson Early Childhood Iowa is to meet the needs of local children prenatal - age 5 and their families while meeting the specific goals established by the Iowa legislature.

The vision of Clinton/Jackson Early Childhood Iowa is that every child will be healthy and successful.

The mission: To develop and maintain a collaborative system of needs-based services, implemented at the earliest possible point of intervention, that strengthens families and communities.

Priority Areas of Clinton and Jackson Counties Early Childhood Iowa:

- Provide resources and support for healthy parenting
- Improve the availability and access to quality health care services
- Increase access and opportunities for quality preschool/childcare experiences

Why Are The Programs ECI Supports Important to Reaching our Vision and Mission?

The Clinton/Jackson Early Childhood Iowa Board Members understands that intentional investment in quality early intervention services is the key to healthy, safe and school ready children.

More Information About Early Childhood Areas

Iowa Areas enable local citizens to lead collaborative efforts involving education, health, and human services programs on behalf of children, families and other citizens residing in the area. The focus is to improve results for families with young children.

The local board members are citizens or elected officials. Board memberships include representatives from business, faith, consumer, human services, education, and health.

Services Supported by the Clinton/Jackson Early Childhood Iowa Board

- Group Parent Education
- New Parent Program
- Bright Beginnings Program
- Nurse Family Partnerships
- I Smiles Dental Program
- Second Shift Child Care
- Trainings and Childcare Conferences
- Child Care Consultant
- Child Care Nurse Consultant
- Quality Childcare Improvements
- Preschool Scholarships
- Early Head Start
- Head Start
- Community Planning & Coordination

Did You Know? Quality Care For Your Child Matters!

(By Pam Lynch, Community Relations Specialist, Child Care Resource & Referral; Heidi Hotvedt, Child Care Nurse Consultant; Jessica Ihns, Clinton/Jackson Early Childhood Iowa Board Member)

There are many others things to consider when looking for a program to care for your child. There are measures of quality for the air we breathe, hotels where we stay, cars we buy, and restaurants we visit. When choosing a hotel or a restaurant, many will look for star ratings and/or written comments and recommendations. What about the quality of child care? Considering that a child will go to a child care every day for six to eight hours (and sometimes more), we suggest that parents ask about child care quality too!

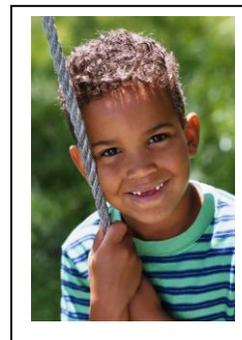
The most common questions asked by parents are about openings, hours, location, and cost. While it is important to consider cost, families also need to know if the program is registered and ask about provider qualifications, the number of children being cared for, and family involvement. Don't forget to ask: "Are you a quality rated program?" Iowa, along with many other states, has a quality rating system (QRS) in place for child care programs. QRS is a voluntary program that offers child care providers a guided way to improve the quality of child care they provide. This system includes professional development, health and safety checklists, the set-up of environment, family and community partnerships, and leadership. As steps are completed, the provider is able to move up in levels. Achieving a star rating, level 2-5, on the QRS scale means the provider has gone above and beyond what the state requires of them. A rating shows that the provider is committed to providing quality child care. Jackson and Clinton county providers have access to the Child Care Resource & Referral Consultant for help with understanding the registration and QRS process in Iowa.

There are checklists to help you remember all the things to ask and look for when trying to find child care. For more information about choosing quality child care and Iowa's Quality Rating System, call Child Care Resource & Referral at 1-855-CHILD-01 (855-244-5301) or visit these websites: www.iowaccrr.org and <http://dhs.iowa.gov/iqrs>.

A snap shot of some of our areas accomplishments!

Child Care & Preschool	
83	children received a preschool scholarship
253	children, 3 to 4 years old received a dental screening
456	children, 4 to 5 years old received a dental screening
106	visits were conducted by the Child Care Nurse Consultant
184	visits were conducted by the Child Care Consultant
27	early learning programs participated in quality improvement

Family Support & Parent Education	
143	families participated in family support and parent education opportunities
1858	home visits were provided to Family Visitation Program Participants by a family support worker
206	families participated in a family support program or activity



What can you do to help?

 Increase your awareness about volunteer and mentoring programs and opportunities in your community!

 Educate yourself and others about adverse childhood experiences @ www.IowaAces360.org



Why Invest in the First 2000 Days? There are approximately 2000 days between the time a baby is born and when he or she will begin kindergarten. Research shows that the care a child receives during the first five years of life dramatically affects future educational attainment, job participation, wage acquisition, and civic engagement.
 (Iowa Fiscal Partnership, policy brief, 4-9-12)