

Reasons to Invest in Early Childhood Development!

www.readychildren.net

Families need tools for ***literacy***.

The human brain develops more rapidly between birth and age five than during any other subsequent period. Children develop essential academic and social skills in their early years that affect lifelong success. Affordable, quality childcare is essential to a child's health and future college potential.

Children must start school ***ready to learn***.

School readiness is about children's ability to adjust to the demands of school. Children need to be able to interact with others positively, pay attention, remember lessons, follow a teacher's directions, finish tasks, and practice what they have learned.

Vision and Mission of CEA:

The vision of Clinton/Jackson Early Childhood Iowa is that every child beginning at birth will be healthy and successful. The mission is to develop and maintain a collaborative system of needs-based services, implemented at the earliest point of intervention that strengthens families and communities.



Clinton/Jackson Early Childhood Iowa

FY12 Executive Summary

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2000 Days

Ask the Clinton/Jackson Early Childhood Iowa Board!

There are approximately 2000 days between birth and the first day of kindergarten. The first 2000 days of a child's life can have a profound and lifelong impact on physical and emotional wellbeing, readiness to learn and succeed, and ability to become a productive citizen.

What difference did the Clinton/Jackson Early Childhood Iowa funds make in the lives of families with children, 0-5, who accessed funds July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012?

We provided:

- 88 children who live in poverty access to a universal literacy program called Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in Clinton and Jackson Counties. This means 88 children received a high quality, hard covered book every month for one year.
- 708 children received a dental screening and fluoride varnish application by a Dental Hygienist at their preschool with parent permission. 24 preschools in Clinton and Jackson County participated in the I Smiles Program.
- 26 preschool age children who attend the Head Start Program in the City of Clinton received an extra 3.5 hours of onsite preschool extending their day to 6 hours a day.
- 103 children who live at 200% or below poverty level attended the preschool of their parents choice with 100% of funding provided by Clinton/Jackson Early Childhood Iowa. These 103 children did not meet the requirements to participate in the Voluntary Four Year Old Program.

This is a small snap shot of our accomplishments for FY12. We are proud to serve families in Clinton and Jackson Counties. Our priorities are to provide resources and support for healthy parenting. Improve availability and access to quality health care services. Increase access and opportunities for quality preschool/childcare services.



Clinton / Jackson Early Childhood Iowa Board

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Pastor Lynn Thiede, Faith leader / Citizen

Lutheran Services in Iowa New Parent Program

LSI's (Lutheran Services in Iowa) New Parent Program is a voluntary home visitation program funded primarily by Clinton and Jackson Early Childhood Iowa. It is an evidence based and accredited program that follows the policies and procedures of Healthy Families America. The program is designed to help families make the most of the important early years of a child's life. Through regular visits in the home, the family support worker builds on a family's strengths and teaches strategies for parenting in areas of positive discipline, parent – child interaction, healthy development and much more. Questions are answered and encouragement and information is provided to help families become stronger, nurturing and caring parents. It is known when parents and children have strong, warm feelings for one another, children develop trust that their parents will provide what they need to thrive, including love, acceptance, positive guidance and protection.

In FY12 the New Parent Program home visitation program staff made:

- 1,382 home visits
- 84 families participated in the program
- 71 children were screened for developmental delays
- 12 of those children were referred to Early Intervention Services

Look at what parents who participated in the program reported:

- 45 families were surveyed and 37 (82%) reported that they improved or maintained healthy functioning, problem solving and communication.
- 45 families were surveyed and 42 (93%) reported that they increased or maintained social supports.
- 45 families were surveyed and 43 (96%) reported that they are connected to additional concrete supports in our community.
- 45 families were surveyed and 7 (16%) reported that they increased their knowledge about child development and parenting.
- 45 families were surveyed and 6 (13%) reported that they improved nurturing and attachment between parent(s) and child(ren)

The Clinton/Jackson Early Childhood Iowa Board is proud to support our families by providing funding to the New Parent Program. As you can see through data and parent surveys we know this is a vital service in our area to promote the health and well being of our families.



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Quality pre kindergarten ***cuts crime.***

Adolescents whose mothers received quality home visitation programs when those youth were infants were 55% less likely to have been arrested and 80% less likely to have been convicted of a crime. Expanding quality educational childcare and after school programs is the most effective strategy for reducing youth violence and crime.

Investing in children's early care makes ***economic sense.***

Investing money in early childhood development programs is perhaps the best form of economic development. Investing in human capital is smart economic development – and it leads to a satisfying life. You get the most payoff the earlier you invest. For every \$1 invested in early childhood development programs, there is a \$7 - \$8 public return.

