

Clinton/Jackson Early Childhood Iowa

Website: http://www.clintoncounty-ia.gov/Page/Clinton_Jackson_Early_Childhood_Iowa.aspx?nt=636

Counties in Area: Clinton and Jackson Counties

Contact for Area: Jenny Kreiter, Clinton/Jackson ECI Director
329 E. 11th Street, DeWitt, IA 52742
Phone: 563-659-3651 Fax: 563-659-2616
E-mail: kreiter@clintoncounty-ia.gov



Vision: Every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful

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.

Input from I-Smile™ Program Participant from Jackson County

Although many families may have some awareness their child needs to see a dentist, they sometimes don't know who to call or what to do. So they do nothing. This was the case for a mother of four kids, ranging in age from 3-9 years. She lives in a small town at least 45 minutes from any specialty dentists. The family only has one car, which her husband drives to work everyday- so transportation has always been a barrier when trying to get medical or dental care. The two youngest children received dental screenings and fluoride varnish applications at their preschool through I-Smile's collaboration with Early Childhood Iowa. Neither child had ever seen a dentist, and the 5 year old had obvious decay. After the I-Smile™ coordinators first phone conversation with mom, it was apparent she understood the importance of getting her kids to the dentist, but was overwhelmed in how to get it done. The I-Smile™ coordinator helped to make dental appointments for the family and arranged transportation services. The two with known decay were seen by a pediatric dentist in a neighboring county within a week. A few months after all the kid's dental work was completed, Mom told the I-Smile™ coordinator that since the kids have been cavity-free, they are eating much better and are able to eat things like apples which they couldn't eat before. Mom and the teachers have recognized the children's concentration has improved. Mom is grateful for the assistance she received from I-Smile™ and said "I want to share my story because there may be someone else out there just like me that needs assistance."

Clinton/Jackson ECI Community Plan Priorities

- ✚ Access to medical & dental care
- ✚ High quality child care centers, in home provider care and preschools
- ✚ Family support & parent education program based on research/evidence based programs
- ✚ Programs & services that reduce the incidence of child abuse

Did you know? Oral health affects our children's speech, nutrition, growth, social development, and much more.

Why are the programs we support important to reaching our vision & mission?

Investments in the education and skills of young children can have a substantial impact on their success as students, workers, and citizens. That is, one of the most efficient means to boost the productivity of the work force is 15 to 20 years is to invest in today's youngest children. "The economic case for investing in young children, Rob Grunewald, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, December 2012

Types of services supported by Clinton/Jackson Early Childhood Iowa 2013

- Child Health Services and Screenings
- On-Site Technical Assistance with Care Providers
- In-Home Visitation & Family Support
- Preschool Scholarships
- Second Shift Child Care
- Quality Improvements (QRS)
- Group Parent Education
- Spanish Translator
- Child Care Nurse Consultant
- Oral Health Screens
- Transportation Safety Items for Preschoolers
- Child Care Home & Center Consultants

How Do We Measure Progress in Clinton and Jackson Counties?

How are we doing?

Parents who have support and access to services for their children are less likely to feel isolated which in turn contributes to the reduction of incidents of child abuse. Data from the Iowa Department of Human Services indicates that 197 children in Clinton and Jackson Counties, age 5 and under, were victims of confirmed or founded child abuse in 2012.

Confirmed and Founded Child Abuse Victims Age 0-5 Yrs Clinton and Jackson Counties

<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
172	181	211	197

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The primary type of child abuse is Denial of Critical Care/Neglect. The top reasons for a child neglect report are parental failure to provide proper supervision of the child and living environment issues. A variety of screenings are made available to families with children, prenatal to age 5, in the areas of medical, dental, vision, hearing, educational, parent and child development with an emphasis on increasing family stability and child safety. This means increased access and quality services being provided to our children, prenatal to five years old, at the earliest point of intervention. Clinton/Jackson Early Childhood Iowa funds family support & parent education programs to increase family stability and child safety. Below are survey results from families that participated in family support/parent education programs funded by Clinton/Jackson ECI in FY 13.

% of Families Report Improved Nurturing & Attachment with their Child(ren) (2013)

<u>New Parent Program</u>	<u>Parent Education</u>	<u>Head Start</u>
95% of 49 families	100% of 16 families	94% of 18 families

What can you do to help?

Educate yourselves on the five protective factors that reduce the risk of child abuse.

- Nurturing and Attachment – Developing a close bond helps parents relate, respond and communicate with their child
- Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development – Understanding child development can be calming for parents and help parents respond appropriately to a child's behavior.
- Parental Resilience – Recognize the signs of stress and enhancing problem-solving skills can improve parents' capacity to cope.
- Social Connections – Identifying a network of family, friends and neighbors provides parents support in times of need.
- Concrete Supports – Offering parents access to financial, housing, medical, and other resources and services help parents meet their basic needs, so they can focus on their role as parents.

(Source: US Department of Health and Human Services)

Join the Community Partnership for Protecting Children and Prevent Child Abuse(PCA) Councils in Clinton and Jackson Counties(CPPC).

Other partners in Clinton and Jackson Counties that Provide Family Support Services

- Department of Human Services, Eastern Iowa Service Area
- Clinton/Jackson DECAT
- Faith Organizations in Clinton and Jackson Counties
- United Way of Clinton County