

Quad Cities Bi-State Early Childhood Collaboration



VISION - Assure that every child, birth to school age, has access to quality early care and education experiences.

HISTORY

Quad City stakeholders in early childhood care and education began meeting in January 2008 to develop a unified Quad Cities plan that will create significant improvements in early child care and education services.

One important issue to consider in creating a unified plan in a bi-state community is the fragmentation that comes with many layers of regulation and funding stream differences.

However, as a bi-state community we also have access to additional resources in political representation, university systems and state agencies.

A strategic unified plan to improve the quality of early childhood care and education will be strengthened by identifying assets, challenges and solutions as a single community.

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

- Black Hawk College
- Child Abuse Council
- Community Child Care Resource and Referral
- Community Foundation of the Great River Bend
- Early Childhood Coalition of the Illinois QC Area
- Early Childhood Coordinating Council – Iowa QC
- Early Childhood Network – All Our Kids (AOK)
- Family Resources, Inc.
- Illinois Department of Children and Family Services
- In a Kid's World Early Learning Center
- Iowa Department of Human Services
- Iowa First Years First – Private Investments Project
- Iowa State University Extension
- Kiddie Karrasel Academy, Inc.
- Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency
- Project NOW Community Action Agency
- QC Association for the Education of Young Children
- Rock Island County Regional Office of Education
- Scott Community College
- Scott County Kids – Iowa Empowerment
- Skip-a-Long Child Development Services
- St. Ambrose University Children's Campus
- The Moline Foundation
- Two Rivers YMCA
- United Way of the Quad Cities Area
- Villa Montessori School
- WQPT Quad Cities PBS
- YWCA of the Quad Cities

UNIFIED PLAN OBJECTIVES

1. Support increased collaborative actions among key early care and education organizations and stakeholders.
2. Increase provider competency by increasing access to and coordinating a wide range of training and educational opportunities.
3. Improve the quality of early childhood care and education by increasing the number of programs that advance on a quality rating system.
4. Increase the demand for high quality early childhood care and education centers by increasing public awareness of key quality factors.
5. Promote more active connections between teachers and training systems as well as between parents and early childhood care and education resources, in order to maximize utilization of best practice and research-based child development knowledge.

“Early interventions for disadvantaged children promote schooling, raise the quality of the work-force, enhance the productivity of schools and reduce crime, teenage pregnancy and welfare dependency. They raise earnings and promote social attachment. Focusing solely on earnings gains, returns to dollars invested are as high as 15-17%.”

“Remediation for impoverished early environments becomes progressively more costly the later it is attempted in the life cycle of the child. Impoverished early environments are powerful predictors of adult failure on a number of social and economic dimensions.”

James J. Heckman, 2000 Nobel Prize Laureate in Economics, Investing in Disadvantaged Young Children is an Economically Efficient Policy Jan. 2006

The projects listed below represent specific opportunities for people who care to invest in early childhood care and education.

COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS THAT MEET OBJECTIVES

Develop and implement a comprehensive strategic plan to improve early childhood care and education.

Identify and promote co-investment opportunities for stakeholders related to the strategic plan.

Promote development of an endowed fund that will supplement professional education costs for providers.

Web-based ‘substitute pool’ to facilitate increased attendance for training/education.

Child care work force assessment based on Gateways to Opportunities Training Lattice.

Coordinated web-based professional development calendar for the Quad Cities area.

Local certified assessors for national quality rating standards (2 certified professionals).

Enhanced web-based interface for professional development.

System of credentialed professional development opportunities leading to college credits.

Expanded quality mentoring for child care programs to increase quality ratings.

Social marketing campaign to educate public/parents on importance of high quality child care.

Enhanced information and referral system for resources/programs supporting early childhood.

Local and accessible lending library for early care and education professionals.

Computers in child care programs to facilitate access to best practice ideas and training.

Increased developmentally supportive materials in child care programs.

Increased number of child care programs with certified outdoor play grounds.

To learn how you can contribute to this effort, please call 563-326-2840.