

**The Children's
Advisory
Commission of
Indiana County**

**Early Care &
Education in
Indiana
County**



**A Report
Card to the
Community**

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**The Early Care and
Education Planning Group**

A project of the Children's
Advisory Commission of Indiana County

C/O Indiana County Depart. of Human Services
827 Water St. 2nd Floor, Indiana, PA 15701



For more information on the CAC and Early
Care and Education in Indiana County log on to:
www.IndianaCountyCAC.com

TO:

Presented by:

The Early Care and Education Planning Group

A Project of the Children's Advisory Commission of Indiana County

The Children's Advisory Commission of Indiana County (CAC) received a grant from the Child Care Resource Developers of the Western Region (CCRD) for the 2003-2004 fiscal year. The funding for the grant came from the PA Department of Public Welfare and was administered locally by the Indiana County Department of Human Services. Part-time staff for the grant were a Supervisor, Project Coordinator, Information & Referral Specialist, Fiscal Director and Media Activities Writer/Researcher.

The Early Care and Education Planning Group (ECEPG) consists of CAC members who work in Early Intervention, Child Care, Head Start, Public Education, Parent and Family Services, Indiana County Government, Penn State Extension and United Way. The ECEPG oversees the implementation of Indiana County's Child Care Plan and the activities of the CCRD Grant staff. Six goals were established for the 2003-2004 grant:

1. *The Community will become more aware of child care needs, and initiatives*
2. *Child care providers will utilize local resources*
3. *A profile of Indiana County Child Care Providers will be documented for the community*
4. *Provider training needs will be surveyed and results reported*

5. *Ways to continue activities after the grant period ends will be established*
6. *Human Services personnel will become more aware of local childcare resources*

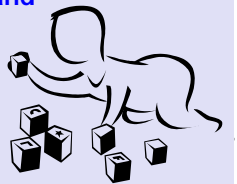
This report will highlight and rank:

- The activities that were conducted to achieve the goals
- The findings that were a result of the research carried out during the grant period

INSIDE:

**Provider Profile and
Training Needs**

An overview of registered Child Care providers in Indiana County



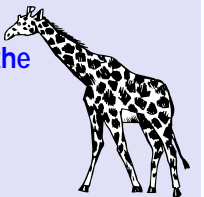
Overview of Services

Humans Services personnel learn about available resources



**ECEPG Outreach
to Providers and the
Community**

Staff/Committee
Activities in
2003/2004



Early Care and Education in Indiana County: ECEPG REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

GOAL 3: INDIANA COUNTY CHILD CARE PROVIDER PROFILE:

b b b Data on registered day care providers in Indiana County was obtained by using the available data from Child Care Information Services. The categories examined included: Days and Hours of Operation, General schedule, Special Needs, Curriculum, Financial Programs, Additional Charges, Environment, Care Level, Meals, Regulated Before and After School status, Languages, School Transportation, Public Transportation, Daily Rates and Discounts.

EXAMPLE: Special Needs Care			
	Family	Group	Center
# That can administer medication	31 (100%)	11 (100%)	11 (100%)
# That can administer asthma treatment	20 (65%)	10 (19%)	9 (82%)
# That can administer injections	3 (9.6%)	11 (100%)	3 (27%)
# That can administer special diet	16 (52%)	7 (64%)	9 (82%)
# That can administer tube feeding	4 (13%)	3 (27%)	2 (18%)
# That use infant monitors (apnea)	2 (6%)	5 (46%)	5 (46%)

Complete results from all categories available at: www.IndianaCountyCAC.com or by calling the CAC Coordinator at 724-463-8200.

Types Of Facilities:

Family Day Care Home - A state certified family residence with one caregiver providing care for four, five or six children unrelated. Number in Indiana County: **31**

Group Day Care Home - A state licensed facility providing care for no more than 12 children who are unrelated to the provider. The term includes a facility located in a residence or another premises. Number in Indiana County: **11**

Day Care Center - A state licensed facility providing care for seven or more children unrelated to the operator. Number in Indiana County: **11**

Goal 4: Provider Training Needs

Survey: **d** A small percentage of providers returned the training surveys that were mailed to them in February, 2004. Even with the small return, there was an indication that providers preferred one-on-one classroom training and were interested in more classes on child development. The survey will be attempted again during the 2004-2005 grant period.

GOAL 5: SUSTAINABILITY PLAN:

c c In-kind and cash match requirements were exceeded. Donations for activities were solicited and secured. Ongoing research was conducted on the availability of alternative funding sources. However, no formal sustainability plan was in place by the end of the grant period.

GOAL 6: Overview Of Services

Sessions: **A A A A** Free sessions were planned to provide new and "seasoned" staff from human service agencies general information on services offered and resources available to them and the clients they serve. Nine sessions offered;

14 different program representatives spoke; there were 97 participants. Packets of Information were given out during the sessions. Packets varied, but included: Health, Help, Support Informational Flyers, Department of Human Services (DHS) Brochure, Steps To Employment Brochure, Transportation Brochure, Children's Services Booklet, DHS memo pad and litter bag, What About Kindergarten Flyer, Kindergarten Checklist, Recipe For Readiness Flyer, Human Service Directories, Network/Council Listing, Toy Tips, PA Resource Booklet, Indiana County Survey Summary.

Goal 2: Resources for Child Care

Providers: **A A A A** Providers received 3 informational mailings during the grant period. Handouts developed for this grant period included: *A Toy Tips for the Holidays* booklet, a *Provider Resource Guide*, Children's Services Booklet, PA Pathways training information distributed in the form of an "at-a-glance" calendars for fall, spring and winter, *Ready for School Checklist*, a Temper Tantrum flyer, and the Child Care Information Services (CCIS) Lending Library "Books & Toys Catalog".

Providers were encouraged to attend trainings, utilize the Lending Library and participate in the CAC/ECEPG sponsored Family Fun Fest.

Early Care and Education web pages were developed on the CAC website that listed useful information and links for providers.

GOAL 1: COMMUNITY AWARENESS A A A A

Nine Public Service Announcements were specifically written for the CCRD Grant activities.

Parents received information via the public elementary schools during fall open houses and spring kindergarten registrations. Over 10,000 informational resource materials were distributed.

Head Start, CCIS, Child Day Care, Family Self Sufficiency Program, Salvation Army and ARIN IU #28 all helped in providing information to their families.

The CCIS Newsletter continued to include an activities page for parents and providers. The subscribers to the newsletter increased to over 600.

The *Indiana Gazette* published full page articles on school-readiness in November 2003 and April 2004.

The ECEPG set up informational/activity tables at the April *Child Safety Fair* and the June *Stand For Children* events.

The **Family Fun Fest** was a successful, well attended event that brought together Head Start, Day Care providers, community members and families for an afternoon of information and fun activities.

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