

What is "Ready 2 Learn?"



Ready 2 Learn (R2L) is a countywide collaborative effort promoting quality early care and education. *R2L* is managed by United Way of Adams County with grants funded through Pennsylvania's Office of Child Development and Early Learning.

R2L partnerships within Adams County include:

- ◆ Regulated and licensed early childhood learning centers and home-based practitioners;
- ◆ PathStone Child and Family Development Services-Migrant Head Start and LIU #12 Migrant Education & 21st Century Programming;
- ◆ Adams County Head Start & LIU #12 Preschool Program;
- ◆ Privately-owned & Faith-based preschool programs;
- ◆ Child Care Information Services of Adams County & York/Adams MH-MR Early Intervention Program;
- ◆ Adams County Library System & Harrisburg Area Community College, Gettysburg Campus;
- ◆ Six Adams County School Districts including Bermudian Springs, Conewago Valley, Fairfield, Gettysburg, Littlestown and Upper Adams;
- ◆ Parents, Families, Employers & Legislators;
- ◆ Local Media & Business Leaders;
- ◆ Children & Youth Services, and various other community service organizations.

Research has proven that children who receive quality care and educational experiences early in life are far more likely to finish high school and become productive citizens. During their school years, they are less likely to require remedial or special education services. As young adults, these same persons tend to experience better overall health and to be more self sufficient, relying far less on public assistance.

The PA Department of Public Welfare developed Keystone STARS as a voluntary program recognizing regulated early care and education practitioners who exceed health & safety requirements and work toward improving the overall quality of their programs. Many programs begin at the "Start with STARS" level and progress to STARS level 1, 2, 3 & 4. At each level, specific quality standards in these key areas must be met: staff education, learning environment, leadership & management, and family & community partnerships.



Keystone STARS Practitioners in Adams County Congratulations to those with an * who have moved up the STARS ladder this year!

STAR Designation	Facility Name	Location
STAR 4	Adams County Head Start (2 Classrooms)	Gettysburg
STAR 4	St. James Child Care Center	Gettysburg
STAR 4	Gettysburg's Growing Place	Gettysburg
STAR 4	Kidz Karousel	Orrtanna
STAR 3	YWCA of Gettysburg & Adams County	Gettysburg
STAR 3	Little Life Enrichment Center	New Oxford
STAR 3	YWCA Clubhouse Program	Fairfield Elementary School
STAR 3	Robin Deitch	Abbottstown
STAR 2	Wee Care Learning Center	Gettysburg
STAR 2	Hanover Area YMCA	Rolling Acres Elementary
STAR 2	Hanover Area YMCA	Conewago Elementary
STAR 2	Hanover Area YMCA	New Oxford Elementary
STAR 2	Hanover Area YMCA	Biglerville Elementary
STAR 2	Adams/Cumberland Migrant Child Development Center (2 Classrooms)	Aspers
STAR 2	Zwingli Reformed Church Day Care	East Berlin
STAR 2	Leslie Bartlebaugh	Fairfield
STAR 2	YWCA @ Commerce Park	Gettysburg
STAR 2	Childcare Unlimited	Littlestown
STAR 2	Carol Few	New Oxford
STAR 2	Lisa Rufalo	New Oxford
STAR 2	Kidz Kaboose *	Gettysburg
STAR 1	Donna McDannell	Orrtanna
STAR 1	Babes In Arms	Gettysburg
STAR 1	Connie Feaster	Biglerville

2011-2012 Report to the Community on Early Childhood Care & Education in Adams County



Look inside for information on kindergarten readiness activities for parents and families.

Learn where to find information on school readiness and family events in your school district.

Find out how you can become involved in early childhood education in Adams County.

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How well are we educating our children in Adams County?

Family and community factors have an impact on how well young children learn. Children who are affected by risk factors such as poverty and family illiteracy or who lack access to quality early care and education are far less likely to be successful in school and in life.

Just a few concerning Adams County facts:

There are approximately 5,770 children under the age of five living in Adams County. Compared with all others in PA, our youngest children are at moderate to high risk of school failure for reasons such as:

62.7% of our young children live in economically at-risk households.

24.1% of these children were born to mothers who did not receive early prenatal care.

Less than 14% of our pre-school age children are receiving quality early care and education in a KEYSTONE STARS or HEAD START program.

In 2010, 23% of Adams County's 3rd grade students scored below proficient on standardized reading tests.

(Data source for facts above—Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) Reach and County Risk Assessment, FY 2009-2010)

Nearly 20% of Adams County's adult citizens do not graduate from high school and over 80% do not obtain a bachelor's degree. (U.S. Census Bureau)

What early learning programs are currently available to Adams County's children?

At-risk children who receive quality early education can catch up to their peers in cognitive and social-emotional development before they reach kindergarten. These children are then ready to succeed in school, and these benefits stay with them throughout their lives. A few of the programs that are available to children in Adams County include:

PA Pre-K Counts

Keystone STARS

Child Care Works

Head Start

Early Intervention

PathStone/Migrant Head Start

LIU # 12 Preschool Program



What can families do to help prepare children for school?

- ◆ READ, READ, READ! Read with your child daily and talk about what you've read. Visit your local library to check out books and participate in free story times and activities.
- ◆ SING together! Rhyming and alphabet songs, as well as finger-plays and fun chants, promote interaction and language skills.
- ◆ CHOOSE QUALITY child care that promotes learning with well-planned, fun and interesting activities.
- ◆ TEACH your child to consider the feelings of others.
- ◆ Make sure your child receives plenty of REST by establishing a bedtime. FEED your child nutritious meals and snacks during similar meals times each day.
- ◆ ENCOURAGE independence in dressing, toileting and doing chores to build confidence and self-esteem.
- ◆ PROVIDE opportunities for your child to play, talk, take turns and share with other children.
- ◆ LISTEN to your child, and encourage them to listen and respond to others when they speak.
- ◆ MOTIVATE your child to finish difficult or frustrating tasks once they are begun.
- ◆ SET RULES for your child and give consistent consequences for breaking them.
- ◆ PROVIDE a loving, supportive home environment where your child feels safe and appreciated.
- ◆ LIMIT the time your child spends watching TV and playing computer games.



To request your free copy of the

"Learning Is Everywhere" activity calendar, call or email:

717-334-5809 x 24

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What is our community doing to improve educational success?

Each of the six school districts in Adams County are committed to the success of their students. School boards, administrators, teachers and support staff work tirelessly to improve the quality of education within their districts, while working under increasingly tight budgets.

Over the past nine years, Community Engagement (CEG) Team members have made great strides in bringing together early care and education practitioners with staff from each of our six school districts. Beginning this year, CEG teams will become known as "LEARN Teams" and will continue to consist of staff and volunteers from various agencies who serve children in Adams County. Activities include collaborating to improve school readiness activities and planning for more effective family engagement and participation.

For example in March, 2011 over 100 participants attended the 8th annual "Bridging the Gap" seminar in Gettysburg. This all-day training provides an opportunity for networking and sharing ideas for improvement of kindergarten readiness activities and quality early childhood education in our communities, within each of our six school districts and throughout the county.

Want more information?

- ◆ Ask about participating on a LEARN Team in your community
- ◆ Find information on school readiness events as well as contact names for your school district

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