

## Community and School Representatives

Jacque Amor-Zitzleberger, Penn State University  
Patty Anderson, Punxsutawney School District  
Jodi Askins, Northwest Regional Key  
Barb Austin, Kids N' Us Child Care Center  
Michelle Bills, New Choices/New Options  
Dr. Luanne Bonnet, Clarion University  
Nicole Cable, DZ Kids Child Care Center  
Kelly Carpino, Jefferson-Clarion Head Start  
Bibiana Chestnut, Penn State University  
Michele Confer, Brookville School District  
Joyce Cooper, Punxsutawney School District  
Terri Corbett, Children's Scholarship Fund  
Teresa Cyphert, Clarion Limestone School District  
Susan DeVaughn, Punxsutawney School District  
Bob Dull, Clarion Area School District  
Shannon Eckels, Adagio Health  
Mary Faulk, Clarion Limestone School District  
Lyn Fleisher, Clarion University  
Maureen Freas, Punxsutawney School District  
Lori Fulton, Jefferson County Health Department  
Linda Gilroy, Highmark Caring Foundation  
Debra Hoffman, Keystone School District  
Pat Jones, Child Care Information Services of CAI, Inc.  
Becky Kunselman, Punxsutawney School District  
Tammy Leibert, Crayon Castle Child Care Center  
Erin McLaughlin, Brookville YMCA Learning & Caring Center  
Marilyn Mumau, Punxsutawney School District  
Carol Murray, Brookville School District  
Bonnie Norvasia, Highmark Caring Foundation  
Carolyn Payne, Brookville School District  
Stephanie Polosky, Punxsutawney School District  
John Pozza, Clarion County Promise  
Paula Quick, Playhouse Children's Center  
Thelma Rhoads, Keystone SMILES  
Kim Rhodes, Mentor Parent Program  
Alice Sampson, Keystone School District  
Missy Seeley, Kids Clubhouse  
Linda Smith, Playhouse Children's Center  
Shelia Snyder, Clarion County Promise  
Denise Storer, Creative Kids Learning Center  
Janet Swartzfager, Swartzfager Child Care Center  
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## *Early Care and Education in Clarion and Jefferson Counties*

Program Year  
July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006



## JEFFERSON COUNTY

### *Early Care and Education Quick Facts*

#### EARLY EDUCATION

- 8 Head Start centers, 1 home based program
- 274 Children are enrolled in Head Start programs in the bi-county area
- 6 nurseries and pre-schools (separate from child care and the Intermediate Unit)

#### EARLY CARE

- 16 family day care homes equaling 96 slots
- 2 group day care homes equaling 24 slots
- 6 child care centers equaling 446 slots
- 41 relative/neighbor providers have been identified through Child Care Information Services equaling 123 slots
- 689 child care slots are available for Jefferson County children

#### KEYSTONE STARS PROVIDERS

##### Start With Stars Level:

- Kids N' Us Center—Brookville
- Pendleton's Child Care Center—Brockway
- Holly Krug Group Day Care—Punxsutawney
- Tracy Hulihan Family Day Care—Punxsutawney
- Debora Juart Family Day Care—Brookville
- Rona Petroff Family Day Care—Punxsutawney
- Linda Slater Family Day Care—Brookville
- Kim Roy Family Day Care—Punxsutawney
- Deb Walk Family Day Care—Reynoldsville

##### Star Level 1:

- Brookville YMCA Center—Brookville
- Crayon Castle Center—Brookville
- Sandy Luke Group Day Care—Brockway
- Elizabeth Bloom Family Day Care—Brockway
- Cindy Park Family Day Care—Brockway
- Judy Wells Family Day Care—Reynoldsville

##### Star Level 2:

- Playhouse Children's Center—Punxsutawney
- Julia Toy Family Day Care—Brookville

Jefferson County features 17 Keystone STARS child care providers. Approximately 71% (or 17 of 24) registered and certified providers known to be providing care to children are participating in the quality improvement initiative.

## KEY SUCCESSSES

In 2005-2006, The Early Care and Education Project focused on enrolling child care providers in Keystone STARS and promoting professional development, reaching out to the community to promote the importance of early care and education and building relationships with area school districts to better facilitate transitioning children from early learning settings to school. The most notable success in 2005-2006 is the overall number of child care providers in the bi-county area enrolled in the Keystone STARS (which stands for Standards, Training, Assistance, Resources and Support) initiative **increased by 300%!**

JEFFERSON COUNTY—June 30, 2005, 6 of 29\* registered and certified child care facilities were participating in Keystone STARS, a 21% participation rate. June 30, 2006, 17 of 24\* child care facilities are participating in Keystone STARS, a 71% participation rate. **Participation nearly tripled in 2005-2006 with an increase of 283%.**

CLARION COUNTY—June 30, 2005, 5 of 28\* registered and certified child care facilities were participating in Keystone STARS, a 18% participation rate. As of June 30, 2006, 16 of 30\* child care facilities are participating in Keystone STARS, a 53% participation rate. **Participation more than tripled in 2005-2006 with an increase of 320%.**

\*Indicates the number of facilities known to actually provide child care.

The Early Care and Education Project also hosted 3 kindergarten roundtable meetings at Brookville, Punxsutawney and Clarion Limestone schools where representatives from the school districts, Head Start, project staff and child care met and discussed ways to improve the transition from early care to school. Discussion highlights included:

- Language development, social and self-help skills, and recognizing upper and lower case letters were areas identified as critical to early school success.
- School personnel noted children coming from area child care facilities are thought to be better prepared for kindergarten than those children who did not participate in child care or preschool.
- Establish a voluntary system, based on Head Start's practice, where child care providers would meet with school representatives to share development information on children transitioning from child care to schools.

## CLARION COUNTY

### *Early Care and Education Quick Facts*

#### EARLY EDUCATION

- 6 Head Start centers, 1 home based program
- 274 Children are enrolled in Head Start programs in the bi-county area
- 2 nurseries and pre-schools (separate from child care and the Intermediate Unit)

#### EARLY CARE

- 16 family day care homes equaling 96 slots
- 5 group day care homes equaling 60 slots
- 9 child care centers equaling 493 slots
- 44 relative/neighbor providers have been identified through Child Care Information Services equaling 132 slots
- 781 child care slots are available for Clarion County children

#### KEYSTONE STARS PROVIDERS

##### Start With Stars Level:

- Kids Clubhouse Center—Knox
- Robyn's Nest Center—Tylersburg
- Lori Condon Family Day Care—Knox
- Gretchen Frye Family Day Care—Knox
- Krystal Hornberger Family Day Care—Sligo
- Leesa Knight Family Day Care—Shippensburg
- Paula Sharrar Family Day Care—Clarion

##### Star Level 1:

- Keystone SMILES Center—Knox
- Swartzfager Child Care Center—Knox
- Wee Care Group Day Care—New Bethlehem
- Kim Bowman Family Day Care—Knox
- Barbara Fontaine Family Day Care—Clarion
- Mari Long Family Day Care—Strattanville

##### Star Level 2:

- Creative Kids Learning Center—Clarion
- Sonia Crissman Group Day Care—Strattanville

##### Star Level 4 Accredited:

- Clarion University Center—Clarion

Clarion County features 16 Keystone STARS child care providers. Approximately 54% (or 16 of 30) registered and certified providers known to be providing care to children are participating in the quality improvement initiative.