

QCCC Report Card

The Bucks County Quality Child Care Coalition
October 2011



QCCC Earns Designation as the Bucks County LEARN Team

The Bucks County Quality Childcare Coalition has been chosen by Pennsylvania's Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) as the Local Education and Resource Network (LEARN) team for the 2011-2012 year. As a county-based group, we are one of 59 LEARN Teams across Pennsylvania and are designed to inform, educate, and motivate the community around quality early learning. Some of our objectives are:

- * Effectively communicate with and engage families to help them to act as their child's first teacher, make good early learning choices for their children, and take action on behalf of their children;
- * Provide support to families with children who are transitioning into an early learning setting or kindergarten; and
- * Act as a resource for early childhood education to promote state programs such as Keystone STARS.

While we will remain QCCC, you will be seeing the new LEARN logo on our materials (see page 4) and in other places, such as our new Facebook page which is launching shortly. Stay tuned for updates and more of the LEARN logo!

Celebrate PA's Promise for Children Month



Fall brings cooler days, falling leaves, and PA's Promise for Children month. To celebrate, the Bucks County QCCC is participating in a host of activities throughout October. The formal "kick off" for PA's Promise for Children Month in Bucks County is set for Tuesday, October 11 at the QCCC Annual Meeting at Holy Family University in Newtown. All community members are welcome! For more information on PA's Promise for children, visit the web site www.papromiseforchildren.com and see the calendar in this report for more information.

IMPORTANT DATES

October 2011: PA's Promise for Children Month

See our calendar on Page 3 for a full schedule of events

October 5: County Proclamation

October 11: QCCC Board Meeting, Holy Family University

Did You Know?

**Successful transitions have lasting positive effects on school success in later years.*

**The Kindergarten, Here I Come! activity calendar is one of several resources to help families prepare for school success.*

**14 Bucks County libraries held Kindergarten, Here I Come! story times in August for new kindergarteners.*

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Bucks County's Early Childhood Education Profile: Helping children reach their promise through quality early education

Quality early learning and child development play a major role in a child's future success in school and in life. Pennsylvania's early childhood initiatives play a major role in providing our families with access to reliable, quality early learning opportunities. Listed below are the ways in which these programs touch Bucks County.

There are 36,528 children under age five living in Bucks County. Of those:

16% live in households earning less than 200% of poverty. (2000 US Census defines "low income" as below 200% of federal poverty level, which was equivalent to \$34,058 for a family of four in 2000)

34% live in households earning less than 300% of poverty level

6% live in families whose mother has less than a high school degree

14% of 3rd graders in local school districts scored below proficient on PSSA in Reading in 2009

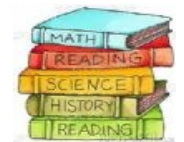
Quality early education can bridge the achievement gap before it begins.

Research has also shown that at-risk children who receive quality early education can catch up to their peers in cognitive and social emotional development before they reach kindergarten, so that they are ready to succeed when they enter school. All of these efforts help ensure that our community's children enter school ready to learn and to succeed! More investment is needed in quality early education if Pennsylvania is to secure a brighter future for its children, families and communities. Pre-K Counts provides high-quality pre-Kindergarten to 182 three and four year-olds in Bucks, and is focused on children at risk of academic failure. Keystone STARS is proven to improve the quality of child care based on an independent study and offers parents a tool to gauge the quality of the programs they choose. Child care and Head Start programs earn a STAR 1 to STAR 4 level based on quality standards for teacher qualifications, learning environment and program management. 17% of Bucks County's regulated child care programs participate in STARS.



Some significant Bucks County facts:

- Bucks County has the fourth largest homeless population in the state of Pennsylvania, with 60% of these individuals being children. There are homeless children in every school district in the county.
- Significant pockets of poverty exist throughout Bucks County, as is demonstrated by local school district data. There are many children on free/reduced lunch programs in Bristol Boro (60%), Bristol Township (51%), Morrisville (43%), Bensalem (38%), Centennial (21%), and Quakertown (22%).
- There are a total of 52 Title I elementary schools in the county. Each of the 13 districts includes at least one and up to nine Title I schools.
- More than 1,315 children county-wide ages birth to four are enrolled in CHIP. 8,614 are enrolled in Medical Assistance and CHIP Insurance Programs combined, representing nearly 24% of children ages birth to four in Bucks County in 2010.
- Bucks County's foreign-born population has grown 63% in the past ten years, creating language and cultural barriers that were previously non-existent. Concentrations of foreign language communities have been identified in the Bensalem, Bristol Borough, Bristol Township and Centennial school districts, with 50 different languages and dialects spoken by children and families in school districts throughout Bucks County.



The benefits of early education extend throughout communities in better school performance and lower special education and remediation costs. As these children become adults, communities benefit from a more highly skilled workforce and lower public costs for public assistance, crime control and lost taxes.

Make a smart investment in Pennsylvania's future: support Pennsylvania's early childhood initiatives.

Celebrate PA Promise Month October 2011

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Visit www.Papromiseforchildren.com	Visit www.bucksqccc.org	Teachers-sign up for PD at www.paakey.org	Create & play~ Encourage art experiences! "Art & Play"	Read aloud to your child every day "Display" at	1 BCAEYC ECE Conf at BCCC Please Touch	2 Explore & Play Outdoors Oct 1-12
3 What is nature deficiency? Ebow Lane PD 6:30 PM	4 Assessment PD 6 AM/WCA Bensalem Lib. Family Event 6:30 PM	5 Bucks Commissioners Proclamation: PA Promise Month	6 Follow safe sleep & living practices - immunizations up to date?	7 Check your home, yard, & car for safety - problem solve together	8 Enjoy apples - cook, bake, can you find the star inside?	9 Have a ball! Play ball games & build skills
10 Strengthen Families to Champion Children Wee Care PD 6:15 PM	11 QCCC Annual Mtg. Holy Family 12:30 PM Celebrate! Show appreciations!	12 Feasterville Lib. Family Event 10-noon Jolly Toddlers PD 6:15 PD	13 Nature PD Life Span 6:30 PM Family Mtg. Jolly Toddlers	14 Laugh! Laughing reduces stress & boosts alertness & memory	15 Encourage children & adults to drink water. The brain needs to be properly hydrated to be alert!	16 Listen to sounds all around. Enjoy & move to music outdoors
17 Quakerstown Lib Story Time From Eve nt 11	18 Build children's language skills	19 Talk & sing as you do things with your child	20 Tender Bridges Transition meeting BCTU	21 Family Mtg Wee Care 12:30	22 Plant bulbs & look forward to spring flowers	23 Go for an early fall walk & talk about what you see, smell & feel!
24 Westminster Library Family Event	25	26 Expand children's vocabularies	27 Encourage your child to express feelings	28 Talk, write & draw about feelings & experiences	29 Explore a pumpkin - how many seeds? Bake & taste!	30 Read a book outdoors, take pictures, draw or paint

Please post this calendar at your organization or place of business. Thank you!



Quality Child Care Coalition of Bucks County

*Broadening and Bettering Early Care
& Education in Bucks County*

Bucks County Intermediate Unit
705 North Shady Retreat Road
Doylestown, PA 18901
1-800-770-4822 extension 2952

United Way of Bucks County
413 Hood Boulevard
Fairless Hills, PA 19030

www.bucksqccc.org

Local Education and Resource Network



A Key Partnership for Early Learning

Bucks County QCCC
c/o BCIU #22
705 North Shady Retreat Road
Doylestown, PA 18901

QCCC Board of Directors

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