

United Way

SUCCESS BY 6™

Success By 6 is an early childhood initiative in Mifflin County and Juniata County; not an agency or a program, and does not provide direct services. **It does** provide leadership, solutions, and partnerships. SB6 is funded through the Department of Public Welfare and Office of Child Development and Early Learning.

Early Care and School Success Report Card



Reaching for the STARS!

Success By 6 and the Community Engagement Team applauds the local child care practitioners dedicated to promoting high quality early care for the children of Mifflin and Juniata County's through Keystone STARS and PA Pre-K Counts.

Mifflin County:

Hide-n-Seek Christian Day Care
Panda Preschool & Day Care
St. John's Christian Day Care
SUMCD-Lewistown Children's Center
SUMCD-Taylor Park Children's Center
Belleville Mennonite Pre-School
Tiny Tots Family Day Care
Burnham UMC Preschool
Children of the Ark Day Care
Nechol Morgan Family Day Care

STAR 3 / PA Pre-K Counts
STAR 3 / PA Pre-K Counts
STAR 3 / PA Pre-K Counts
STAR 3 / PA Pre-K Counts
STAR 3 / PA Pre-K Counts
PA Pre-K Counts
STAR 2
STAR 1
STAR 1
STAR 1

Juniata County:

Rainbow Connection Day Care
Sonbeam Early Learning Center
Teddy Bear Day Care
Ann Vasger's Day Care
Brenda Renno Family Day Care
Cindy Heisey Family Day Care

STAR 2
STAR 2
STAR 2
STAR 1
STAR 1
STAR 1

Keystone STARS is a quality improvement program designed to recognize and reward early learning providers who exceed state health and safety certification requirements. The Keystone STARS system of continuous quality improvement reflects standards of quality that are research-based and linked to improved outcomes for children as related to social and emotional development, learning skills and school readiness. Keystone STARS is a voluntary program for the child care facilities; centers, groups and family day care homes.

PA Pre-Counts provides high quality pre-kindergarten opportunities to three and four year olds at no cost to families. Children from age three until the entry age for kindergarten are eligible to apply. PA Pre-K Counts is targeted to children at risk of school failure, either because of income. Language or special needs issues.



Dental Health at Child Care

During February 2008, **Success By 6**, partnered with the United Way of Mifflin-Juniata, the Mifflin-Juniata Dental Clinic, United Concordia Insurance, CHIP and Kiwanis Club of Juniata County and Lewistown Kiwanis, to promote good dental health to over 270 children at local child care programs. Volunteers gave a "Healthy Snacks" presentation and each child had an opportunity to practice brushing teeth on stuffed animals. Every child also received a Dental Bag filled with a tooth brush, tooth paste, a book and more.



Calling All SUPER WHY Readers in Mifflin and Juniata County!

SUPER WHY! Camp provided children getting ready to go to kindergarten the opportunity to attend a half-day camp that simulated a week at school. The children worked on letter recognition, letter sounds, simple sight words, self-help skills, social skills and more. Children were bussed to and from the camp each day. Children also received a healthy breakfast and snack provided through the Summer Food Program.

Mifflin County SUPER WHY! Camp:

When: August 4-8, 2008
Where: Highland Park Elementary School
Number of children served: 60

Juniata County SUPER WHY! Camp:

When: June 22-26, 2009
Where: Mt. View Elementary School
Number of children served: 30



Thank you to Mifflin County School District, Juniata County School District, and WPSU/Raising Readers for helping to make the camps a success!

Have You Seen Our Parent Newsletter?

Over 15,000 copies of the Parent Newsletter were distributed throughout elementary schools, head start, child care centers, preschools and community agencies.

Making the Transition and Building Success in Kindergarten

Success By 6's transition teams, Mifflin County *Terrific Transitions* and Juniata County *Early Childhood Learning Cooperative*, collaborated with Head Start and local early childhood programs to promote smooth and successful transitions for children going to kindergarten. **Success By 6** also sponsored the "Yellow Registration Folders", The "Getting Acquainted Stations" at kindergarten registration, and the "Summer Transition" Packets.

MC Terrific Transitions Team

- ▶ The Terrific Transitions team is made up of kindergarten teachers, school district administration, preschool teachers and community members. The team met three times throughout the year to plan activities and evaluate the transition process for children and families getting ready for kindergarten.
- ▶ "Getting Ready For School" Night- While children participated in kindergarten readiness activities, parents attended a presentation by Mifflin County School District addressing what parents could expect with kindergarten transition.
- ▶ Teacher Visits- Kindergarten and Preschool teachers spent one morning during the year visiting each others classroom to observe and share ideas.

JC Early Childhood Learning Cooperative Team:

- ▶ The Early Childhood Learning Cooperative is made up of kindergarten teachers, school district administration, preschool teachers and community members. The team met three times throughout the year to plan activities and evaluate the transition process for children and families getting ready for kindergarten.
- ▶ Kindergarten Skills List- The Skills list was developed to assess the child's physical, social, emotional, and academic development at the end of their pre-k year. The Skill List is completed by the early childhood teacher and sent to the kindergarten teacher. The tool offers the kindergarten teachers a first glimpse of the child so the teacher can be familiar with a child's strengths and weakness which allows for trust and confidence to develop more quickly.
- ▶ Transition In-service- We held the annual in-service with preschool and kindergarten teachers to share information and participate in educational presentations.

4th Annual "Read Across the Counties"

For the fourth consecutive year, **Success By 6/United Way of Mifflin-Juniata** participated in Pennsylvania's "One Book, Every Young Child" program.

Success By 6 invited 50 community members to visit 22 early childhood classrooms in Mifflin and Juniata counties during the month of April in an effort to promote the value and benefits of reading early and often to preschoolers.

The selection for this year's program was *If You Were a Penguin* by Wendell and Florence Minor, author and illustrator. This book lets children use their imaginations as they step inside a penguin's world.

Pennsylvania's Promise for Children

Because Every Child is Pennsylvania's Future

Pennsylvania's Promise for Children is a campaign to raise awareness about the importance of providing every young child in Pennsylvania with access to quality early learning opportunities.

- Quality early learning is key to a child's success in school and in life.
- In order for children to thrive, they need a stable family and home life.
- Highly trained early childhood teachers are so important to a child's development.
- Pennsylvania supports Early Childhood Community Engagement Groups so they can bring communities together to make quality early learning a reality for every child.

www.papromiseforchildren.com

For more information, contact Cristy Yoders, Success By 6 Coordinator, at 717-436-0212 or visit www.mjunitiedway.org.