

Early Childhood Education in Lawrence County, 2010-2011

Helping children reach their promise through quality early education

Lawrence County's children need a solid educational foundation before kindergarten in order to achieve in school and succeed in the workforce. It is imperative that Pennsylvania's children succeed; their success becomes our communities' success as they fill the 21st century jobs that drive the economy.

Children in Lawrence County are at Moderate-High risk of school failure.¹

When children experience risk factors such as living in economically stressed families, poor or no pre-natal care for the mother, parents with low educational levels, abuse and neglect, and entering a poorly performing school system, they are more likely to enter school behind, and fail in school. The more risk factors the child experiences, the greater her risk of school failure. **There are 4,866 children under age five living in Lawrence County.**

Percent of children under age five affected by select risk factors

Risk factor for failing in school	County	PA
Living in economically at-risk families, up to 300% of poverty	70.4%	58.4%
Births to mothers with less than a high school education	19.0%	15.8%

In addition, 18.4% of 3rd graders in Lawrence County scored below proficient on the 2010 PSSA reading test (22.1% of 3rd graders statewide).

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

Research has shown that at-risk children who receive quality early education can catch up to their peers in language, math and social skills before they reach kindergarten, so they are ready to succeed in school and in life. These benefits last a lifetime.

Early Education Program	County	PA
Child Care Works provides low-income working families with access to child care, making them more likely to retain employment and be more productive at work. Families must provide documentation that they meet work and educational requirements to be eligible. In 2010-2011 more than three-quarters (81%) of children receiving Child Care Works were enrolled in regulated child care; more than half (53%) were enrolled in Keystone STARS programs. In June 2011, 135,907 children from birth – school age received Child Care Works subsidy.	No. of children under 5 served (June 2011)	
	512	83,016
	% of children under 5 served (June 2011)	
	10.5%	11.4%
Early Intervention serves children from birth to age five with disabilities/developmental delays and their families. Early Intervention builds upon the natural learning occurring in a child's early years and promotes collaboration among parents, service providers, early childhood educators and others involved in the child's life. Approximately 82,914 children received Early Intervention Services in 2010-2011.	No. of children served	
	506	82,914
	% of children served	
	10.4%	11.4%
Head Start provides comprehensive early learning services to children and families who are most at risk of academic failure. Federal and state funding supports this program in Pennsylvania. In addition to educational programming, Head Start offers health/nutrition services, social service support to families and a strong parent involvement component, supports to children with disabilities. The percentage of students in Head Start Supplemental with age-appropriate language and math skills increased five times from the beginning to end of the 2010-2011 school year; the percentage with age-appropriate social skills tripled. In 2010-2011, 33,563 children received Head Start services through state and federal funding.	No. of children under 5 served	
	433	35,563
	% of children under 5 served	
	8.9%	4.9%

¹ You can find out more about how each county's risk level is determined in the Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) Program Reach and Risk Report at www.ocdelresearch.org.