

Linn County Early Childhood Iowa

Counties in Area: Linn County

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Vision: *Every child will have access to quality services empowering them to be healthy and successful.*

Mission: *To provide and support quality education, health and human services through community partnerships and collaborations, for children prenatal-age 5 and their families, resulting in healthy, safe and school ready children.*

Input from Family Support Program Participant

“It’s made it easier for me to sleep at night knowing there is somebody there that I can count on,” is but one comment from a Family Support program participant. “M” is a domestic violence survivor and a single mother of 3 who has goals for herself and her family. With assistance from a Family Support Worker she identified her interest in obtaining an Administrative Assistant certificate. The Worker linked her with an initiative at the community college which supports non-traditional students in their re-entry into the academic setting. Family Team meetings identified and secured other needed supports such as transportation, financial counseling and quality child care for her youngest daughter. “M” is averaging a 3.0 GPA and is one semester away from earning her certificate. *“The Family Support program worked with me to assist me in being successful. I have a chance to win back my life and make better choices for my family.”*

Did you know? (Source: Prevent Child Abuse Iowa)

- 11,747 children in Iowa were victims of confirmed child abuse in 2011, which is 7% less than 2010. Over half (51.5%) of abused children are under age 6.
- The most common form of child abuse in Iowa is Denial of Critical Care/Neglect, accounting for 80% of all child abuse cases.

Linn County Community Plan Priorities

- *Child and Family Support
- *Preventive Child Health
- *Affordable High Quality Early Care & Education
- *Child Mental Health & Behavioral Supports
- *Community Where Children Are Valued

Why are the programs we support important to reaching our vision and mission?

- *“Currently the most promising child neglect prevention initiatives around the country center around various forms of community engagement in partnership with investment in early childhood education.”* (Casey Family Programs, 2012).

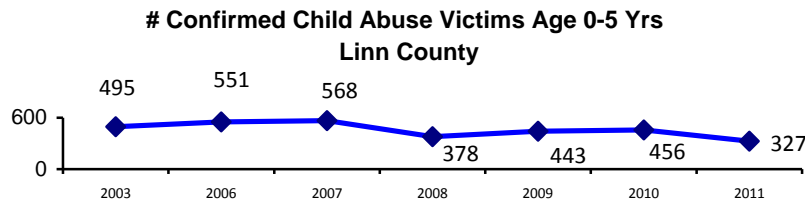
Types of Services supported by Linn County Early Childhood Iowa 2012

- Child Health Services and Screenings
- On-Site Technical Assistance with Care Providers
- In-Home Visitation & Family Support
- Part & Full Day Preschool
- Full-day Wraparound Child Care
- Quality Improvements (NAFCC, QRS, ERS)
- Group Parent Education
- Child Mental Health & Behavioral Supports
- Child Care Nurse Consultant
- Oral Health Screens
- Parent-led Behavior Interventions
- Child Care Home & Center Consultants

How Do We Measure Progress in Linn County?

How are we doing?

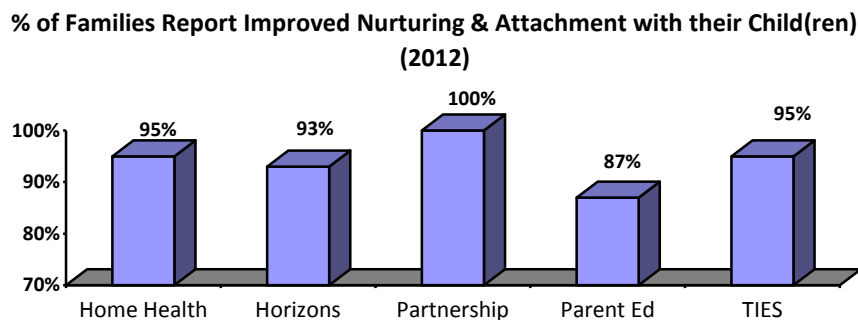
Data from Prevent Child Abuse Iowa indicates that 327 Linn County children, under age 6, were victims of confirmed child abuse in 2011. This figure is 28% lower than 2010 and the fewest number of founded reports in many years. A decline is also noted in the % of abused Linn County children that are under age 6. The 2011 figure of 47.8% is a 1.2% lower than 2010.



How Do We Measure Progress in Linn County Early Childhood Iowa?

How are we doing?

The primary type of child abuse is Denial of Critical Care/Neglect. The top reasons for a child neglect report are parental failure to provide proper supervision of the child and living environment issues. Linn County Early Childhood Iowa funds a variety of family support & parent education programs to increase family stability and child safety. Below are survey results from families that participated in family support/parent education programs funded by Linn County ECI in FY 12.



What can you do to help?

Spread the word to parents that services are available to help them during stressful times. Offer parents a break from parenting. Volunteer time to a community event dedicated to preventing child abuse. Raise funds for local programs that provide education and support for parents. Raise awareness among friends and family that child abuse is preventable and a cause worthy of commitment. (Source: Prevent Child Abuse Iowa) Join the Linn Council on Prevention of Child Abuse.

Other Partners in Linn County that Provide Family Support Services

- Linn Council on Prevention of Child Abuse
- Family Visitation Center
- The ARC of ECI
- Respite/Crisis Care
- Cedar Rapids Dept of HS
- United Way of ECI
- HACAP
- Faith Organizations
- Linn County Decat
- Waypoint Services
- Four Oaks
- Tanager Place
- Young Parents Network