

Linn County Early Childhood Iowa

Counties in Area: Linn County

Contact for Area: Chris Kivett-Berry, Linn County ECI Director
1240 26th Avenue Ct SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404
Phone: 319-892-5721 Fax: 319- 892-5619
E-mail: chris.kivett-berry@linncounty.org
Website: linncountyearlychildhoodiowa.org



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.*

Did You Know?

- ✚ Children are expelled from state-funded preschool programs *at more than three times* the rates of children in elementary and secondary school. (Gilliam, W. S. (2005). *Prekindergarteners Left Behind*. Yale University Child Study Center.)
- ✚ Report also noted that the likelihood of expulsion is... *cut in half when teachers have access to "behavioral consultants."* (Gilliam, W. S. (2005). *Prekindergarteners Left Behind*.)

The Childcare Alliance Response Team (CART) serve a on-site behavioral consultants for early care providers to increase their expertise in serving children with behavior issues in order to reduce expulsions from appropriate child care settings. Here are a few comments from CART Participants:

"I am so very happy with how things have turned a corner over the last month or two. My son is very happy at preschool and I can tell that ***the frustration his teachers have felt is reduced.***" (Parent)

"This program has benefited our classroom greatly. These children have grown tremendously due to the CART behavior plans we have put in place. I am confident they will continue to grow and it will lead to their academic success in the future. ***What a great way to set our children on the path to success!!***" (Preschool Teacher)

Why Are The Programs ECI Supports Important to Reaching Our Vision & Mission?

- The Linn County ECI Board understands that investment in quality early intervention services is the key to ***healthy, safe and school ready children.***

Linn County Community Plan Priorities

- ✓ Quality Early Care and Education
- ✓ Child & Family Resources
- ✓ Preventive Child Health
- ✓ Mental & Behavioral Health Supports

Types of Services supported by Linn County Early Childhood Iowa FY 15

- Child Health Services and Screenings
- On-Site TA Support for Child Care Providers
- In-Home Visitation & Family Support
- Part Day Preschool for 3 year olds
- Full-day Wraparound Child Care for 0-5 year olds
- Quality Improvements (NAFCC, QRS, ERS)
- Group-Based Parent Education
- Child Mental Health & Behavioral Supports
- Child Care Nurse Consultant
- Child Health & Developmental Screens
- Parent-led Behavior Interventions
- Child Care Home & Center Consultants

How Do We Measure Community Level Progress in Linn County?

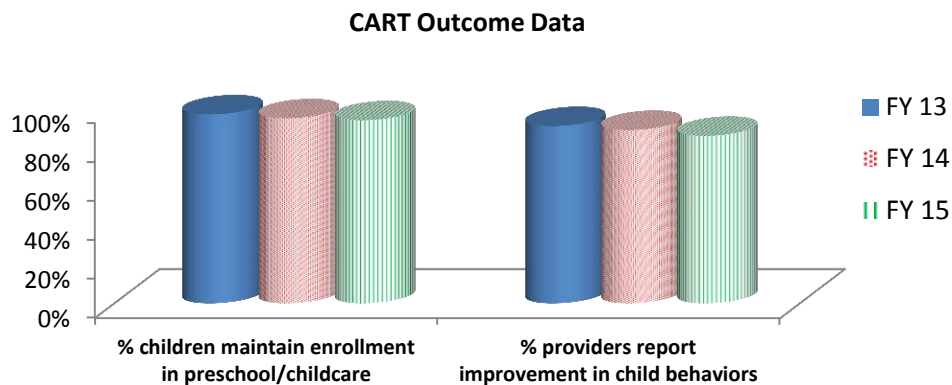
Preschool children are being expelled from child care programs at an astonishing rate, often because of challenging behaviors such as aggression, tantrums, and noncompliance. (Fox & Smith 2007). Forty states with state-funded preschools were included in a 2005 Yale University Child Center study. (Gilliam, W. S. (2005). *Prekindergartners Left Behind*. Yale University Child Study Center.)

- ✚ The average rate of expulsion in state-funded preschools was **6.67 children per 1,000 enrolled**.
- ✚ The rate of expulsion in Iowa was **2.32 preschoolers per 1,000 enrolled**. Iowa ranked 37/40 in expulsion rates in descending order. (Shared Vision data)
- ✚ Although significantly lower than the national average the preschool expulsion rate in Iowa is **5.45 times** the rate of K-12 expulsions (.43/100).

Research has proposed potential explanations such as classrooms with high numbers of children per teacher, longer hours in care, teacher bias and the impact of adverse childhood experiences on children in poverty or high stress family structure. That same research also indicates that expulsion rates plunge when teachers feel competent about working with challenging young children and supporting their emotional development. (www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2014/04/02/27ocrprek.h33.html#sthash.OhNWCnYe.dpuf)

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

Assistance with children's challenging behaviors is the greatest need identified by preschool administrators and educators (Busecmi, Bennett, Thomas, & Deluca, 1996; Yoshikawa & Zigler, 2000). The Childcare Alliance Response Team (CART) provides intensive on-site consultation to early care providers to increase their expertise in serving children with behavior issues. The goals are to maintain the child in an appropriate child care setting while teaching techniques the staff can use after CART services end. CART provides a variety of tools including a classroom environment assessment, assisting teachers with classroom transition routines and Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports. Parent communication is key and referrals to additional services are provided as needed. The table below indicates the consistently positive outcomes of the CART program in addressing behavior concerns and reducing childcare expulsion rates.



What Can You Do To Help?

- Refer families seeking support or information to the Linn County Early Childhood Iowa office at 319-892-5721 or www.linncountyearlychildhoodiowa.org
- Increase your awareness of the long term impact of adverse childhood experiences @ www.IowaAces360.org

Other Partners in Linn County that assist with Child Behavioral Supports

- Grant Wood AEA/Early ACCESS
- TIES program (ECI-funded)
- ACE's Stakeholder Groups
- First Five @ HACAP
- Positive Behavioral Intervention & Support
- Abbe Center
- Tanager Place
- Four Oaks Inc.