

What is the ABC Children's Program?

The ABC Children's Program is a free parenting program. It is for families in Crawford, Edwards, Jasper, Lawrence, and Richland Counties that have children ages birth to three or are expecting children.

Using the "Parents as Teachers" research based curriculum, activities for children and parents are provided to promote child development, increase positive interactions and enhance family well-being.

Who is Eligible?

There are many factors which make families eligible to participate in the ABC Children's Program. These factors include: level of income, prematurity, teen parenting, and many other family circumstances. Staff meet with families to determine eligibility.



Areas of Development:

- **Communication**
- **Motor Skills**
- **Problem Solving**
- **Social Emotional**

Testimonials from Parents...

"My daughter always looks forward to home visits with our parent educator. It has improved her fine motor skills and she is now above and beyond where she needs to be for her age."
- Chrissy/Parent from Crawford County

"The most helpful part about this program is having a supportive, caring and helpful person to discuss the difficulties of parenting with and in confidentiality. My parent educator builds me up and makes me a better parent."
- Susan/Parent from Crawford County

"The program has encouraged me to work and keep track of my child's developmental milestones. I also really appreciate all of the extra activities provided for my family."
- Michelle/Parent from Jasper County

**1902 Miller Drive,
Olney, IL 62450
1-217-718-3625**

Community Support Systems is an Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action Employer and Service Provider.



The ABC Children's Program staff are trained and certified as Parents as Teachers Parent Educators. The staff have met the standards of Parents as Teachers to implement and provide services for families with children from prenatal to 3 years.

Community Support Systems—2020



**All
Babies
Can...
Children's
Program**



***ISBE Prevention
Initiative Program***

*Serving families with children
prenatal to age 3.*

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ABC Children's Program

Mission Statement

The mission of Community Support Systems' ABC Children's Program, is to strengthen parents as their babies' first and most influential teachers, to promote understanding of child development and to facilitate access to community resources that will enable families to foster strong parent-child relationships.

Guiding Principles

- Parents have a profound impact on their children's emotional, social, and school readiness development,
- Understanding child developmental stages, enhances parental ability to nurture and support child learning,
- The birth-to-three years are critical for later school and life success,
- Established and emerging research should be the foundation of parent education and family support curricula, training, materials and services,
- All young children and their families deserve the same opportunities to succeed, regardless of any demographic, geographic or economic considerations,
- An understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures is essential in serving families.

What Services Are Provided?

Developmental Screenings- Free and confidential developmental screenings can determine if there might be any kind of delay in your child's development. These screens, which are based on your child's specific monthly age, are simple and brief. They are conducted every six months while your child is enrolled. If a delay is found, your child will be referred, with your consent, for further evaluation.

Personal Visits- Visits from a Parent Educator are conducted in your home. These visits are scheduled at your convenience and only take approximately one hour. You and your child will enjoy activities and learn how "play" is vital for your child's development. Valuable information regarding your child's brain development will also be shared.

Toy, Book , DVD, and Video

Lending Library- Materials may be borrowed at the time of a home visit or by coming to the office. All items are free for you to borrow as long as your child is enrolled.

Group Connection Meetings-

You and your child are invited to explore topics such as potty-training, nutritious snack ideas, safety in the home, and other topics important while raising a family.

Literacy Events- Enjoy time with your child to "lap read" and visit local libraries. Learn the importance of reading to your child while still in the womb. While funding is available, each child will receive a free book monthly.

Community Resource

Information- Some people need assistance that the program may not be able to provide. However, Parent Educators are familiar with state and local agencies and can help you connect with additional services for resources and support.

Family Enrichment Activities-

Throughout the year, the ABC Program offers activities when families come together for fun and educational experiences. During these activities, children have opportunities to play with other children their own age. These events are offered in each of the five counties served.



Other Services- Health, vision, and hearing screenings are conducted annually. Personal visitors aid families in goal setting and monitoring developmental milestones.