



# ABC Children's Program

*A program that supports and educates the entire family including the child.*

- Funded through the **Illinois State Board of Education**.
- Prevention Initiative Program is certified in the **Parents as Teachers Curriculum**.
- Serves families with children prenatal and/or up to the age of three in Crawford, Edwards, Jasper, Lawrence and Richland counties.
- Curriculum materials available in English and Spanish.

## **Provides the following services:**

- Personal Visits- twice a month.... Scheduled with the parent two weeks in advance and occur in their home.
- Developmental Screens: ASQ-3 and ASQ- SE- every 6 months
- Health, Hearing, and Vision Screening- health-annual/ other screens-every 6 months
- Group Connections- parent meetings on various topics: discipline, stress, potty training, nutrition, cleaning, domestic violence, prenatal topics, etc.
- Resource Referrals- provides many resources for families within their communities.
- Goal Setting- Families & their parent educator set a family goal and a child development goal annually. However, it is encouraged to set one goal after another.
- Literacy- Each child receives a free book each month.
- Family Enrichment Events-seasonal or holiday events for the entire family
- Annual Field Trip: one-day field trip to participate in a developmentally-appropriate activity

## **Eligibility Requirements**

There are many factors which put children "at risk" for developing school delays. The children given priority for enrollment are those involved with DCFS, Early Intervention (Birth to Three), 50% FPL (low income) or homeless/unstable living situation (which includes doubled up and or sheltered.) Other factors which make children/families eligible include but are not completely limited to the following: two or more delays on a developmental screen, family member with a chronic illness, teen parent, parent with no high school diploma/nor GED, military deployment, court appointed/foster parents; parents with limited English, suspected abuse/neglect, substance abuse/dependency, mental illness within the immediate family, child or parent in the home with a disability, incarcerated parent, child with low birth weight, death in immediate family, and domestic violence in family. The program serves all families regardless of race, religion or sexual orientation.

This is the first step in a child's formal education. He or she will receive their student identification number from the Illinois State Board of Education. "Birth to Three" will show up on their educational transcript along with all other formal education, such as Pre-K- 12th grades.

## **Referral Procedure:**

You may call in a referral or fax a referral form to Kristi Crawford, Director of the ABC Children's Program at 217-718-3625. FAX: 217-718-3625 (Same as phone number.) Families do not need a referral; they may call in and ask for an intake to check eligibility.