

Whom Should I Call?

As you work with children and their families, you may encounter situations where services outside of your realm of expertise are needed, which cause you to wonder, "Who does that?" You may also identify assistance that your program needs and wonder, "Who can help us with that?" Hopefully the agency descriptions below will be helpful to you when those questions come to mind and will help you know who you can call.



Melanie Napier
Barren River District Health
Department
1109 State Street
P.O. Box 1157
Bowling Green, KY 42102-1157
Phone-(270) 781-8039

Formerly 'Healthy Start in Child Care' is a 'Kids NOW' Initiative that was implemented in July 2000. It was established in order to reach the goal that all children in Kentucky are healthy and safe. The program provides consultation on health, safety, nutrition, and social/emotional well being to child care providers. Trained **CHILD CARE HEALTH CONSULTANTS** provide group and individual education for childcare staff. They also partner with Early Childhood Councils and resource and referral agencies in their area to ensure collaboration and coordination on issues impacting the quality of child care.



(270) 901-5749 or 1-800-643-6233

Office Hours: Monday through Friday from 8 AM– 5 PM

FIRST STEPS is an Early Intervention Program that serves children from birth to age 3 and their families who have concerns about their child's development. Anyone who believes a child might benefit from our program can make a referral. Many calls are received because a child is not talking, sitting up, or walking on schedule. Children who have a diagnosis which places a high probability of resulting developmental delays, such as Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Autism, and Shaken Baby Syndrome are also served.

Families receive information about First Steps, including who called to refer their child. Because First Steps is a voluntary program, parents may choose not to participate. Families are mailed an Ages and Stages Questionnaire, a tool to assist in determining if further developmental evaluation is needed. If that is the case, a Service Coordinator makes a home visit to gather child specific information and discuss developmental concerns. If a child does not appear to be in need of First Step services, activities for caregivers to try at home are provided and/or other community resource information.

Please call the First Steps office if you would like to refer a child, have questions about our program, would like brochures mailed to your center or would like a professional to present more information at your staff meeting. First Steps is located on the 2nd floor of the new LifeSkills, Inc. building.



The **WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL** is a community based organization that is dedicated to increasing the quality and accessibility of early care and education services for children.

For **EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONALS** we:

- Fee based training sessions for child care providers
- Approved provider of Commonwealth Child Care Credential (CCCC) and Child Development Associate (CDA) classes
- Maintain a resource library of books, videos, & toys
- Provide consultation on quality initiatives, such as accreditation
- Answer your questions about working with young children & their families

For **FAMILIES** we:

- Connect families with advocacy activities
- Answer questions about young children



Phone: 270-745-2216

Toll Free: 800-621-5908

Web: <http://www.wku.edu/cca>

The **CHILD CARE AWARE OF BARREN RIVER** of the WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL focuses on improving quality child care options through the following activities:

TRAINING:

- Connect child care providers with high quality training
- Identify training needs and recruit trainers and training agencies
- Facilitate coordination of training in the region
- Monitor training for quality assurance
- Support child care providers and trainers in using ECE-TRIS

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

- To child care providers in meeting licensing standards and addressing licensing deficiencies
- To individuals wishing to start a child care program
- To individuals wishing to become a KY Credential Trainer
- To support Community Early Childhood Councils

**Free Statewide Referral Service for Families at:
1-877-316-3552.**



Early Childhood Mental Health Program

The Early Childhood Mental Health Program is part of the KIDS NOW Initiative. The role of the **EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST** is to provide outreach/consultation services to child care providers, provide collaborative services to the community, and maintain a caseload for therapeutic services.

I am available to do classroom observations on the entire class or individual children with the parent permission. I offer free clock hours for trainings at your center. Some of the topics that are most requested include: autism, classroom management, biting, trauma, brain development, and professionalism. I am also available for a consultation to see what I am able to provide your center to best fit your needs.

Please contact Sandy Hackbarth at (270) 901-5000 x 1008 for more information.



The local QEI office consists of two positions that support the child care community.

The **STARS QUALITY COORDINATOR (SQC)** provides support and technical assistance to child care programs who want to participate in the STARS for KIDS NOW Quality Rating System (QRS). The STARS for KIDS NOW Quality Rating System is Kentucky's voluntary system for licensed child care centers and certified family child care homes. This system uses a scale of 1 through 4 STARS to identify levels of quality. All STAR levels surpass the minimum licensing requirements that all programs must meet. For more information, contact Taylor Tucker, STARS Quality Coordinator, 1 (270) 901-1157.



The **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNSELOR** provides support to child care providers who want to further their education through the STARS for KIDS NOW Early Childhood Development Scholarship. This scholarship can be used to pay for college classes at any state approved college or university in Kentucky. For more information on the college or university scholarship, contact Brenda Pruitt at 1 (270) 824-8629. The scholarship can also be used to pursue a Child Development Associate (CDA) through a non college program sponsored by a state approved training organization. For more information on the CDA scholarship, contact Larry Simon at 1 (270) 831-9835.



EMPOWERING FAMILIES AND PREVENTING CHILD ABUSE

Family Enrichment Center

441 Church Avenue, Bowling Green, KY 42101

270-781-6714

PARENTING CLASSES are offered at night and in the day – 12 sessions in length for parents striving to be better parents. *The Nurturing Program* is utilized to facilitate class learning and discussion. The **PARENT SUPPORT GROUP** is offered to all families as a once per month self-help support group to discuss issues that all parents face daily.

THE PARENTS AS TEACHERS PROGRAM is an in home parent education program offered to families who are expecting and those with children age 0-5. The program is based on the fact that parents are their child's first and most important teachers and assists parents in preparing their children to enter kindergarten.

THE ADOPTION RESOURCE PROGRAM provides resources to pre and post adoptive parents and the over 8,000 children in KY awaiting adoption. This program offers recruitment activities, a resource library, telephone support, parent trainings/support group monthly for foster/adoptive families.

VISITATION SERVICES offers supervised visitation services to families where custody, domestic violence or abuse has occurred. This program allows the children to maintain a relationship with their non-custodial parent while being conducted in a safe environment.

CHILD ABUSE COMMUNITY AWARENESS is conducted by Family Enrichment to educate the community and professionals about the problem of child abuse, how to recognize and report it and what to do to prevent abuse.

WEE CARE NURSERY provides high quality, affordable childcare for children who are at risk for abuse. The program offers full-time, part-time and **FREE** crisis drop-in care.



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