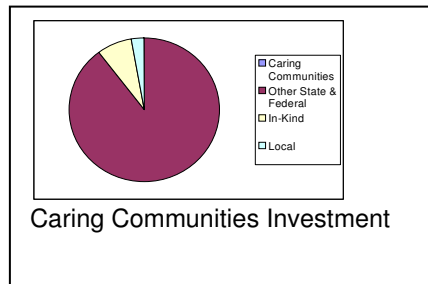


Pettis County

Caring Communities Partnership

Core Result: Children Ready To Enter School
Benchmark: Trained Childcare Providers



September/2004

*Objective

To increase the number of in-home childcare providers enrolled in Educare from 41 in 2000 to 75 by year-end 2005.

*Strategies

The care that children receive throughout their childhood significantly impacts their growth and development. With so many children in childcare programs, it is essential that Pettis County Community Partnership recognizes and supports the role that childcare programs play in supporting and connecting families. We have implemented the following strategies:

Educare

Guiding Principles for Educare:

- ▶ Strengthening the ability of child care providers to offer developmentally appropriate early care and education activities and programs;
- ▶ Developing and expanding school-linked, integrated services to serve young children; focusing on the special needs of children from low-income families;
- ▶ Encouraging parental involvement and participation with their child's developmental process;
- ▶ Drawing on community leadership for design, implementation and continued involvement to improve early child care and education systems; and
- ▶ Creating programs that are designed to meet the unique needs of communities.

PAT Certificate Program – Educare helped enroll at-risk families with children ages 0 – 3 in the Parents As Teachers program by providing incentives for three visits with a PAT Educator.

Central Missouri Regional Family Child Care Association – Educare collaborated with Early Head Start in establishing the Central Counties Community Group. The association's goal is to provide informal networks for support.

Multicultural Education Committee – supports educational opportunities for families with limited English proficiency. They promote education of community members in enhancing the capacity of the community to bridge the language gap.

Missouri Title 1C (Migrant Education) – Educare staff helped to identify families that qualify for assistance under this program.

TEDDY-CARE Committee (Targeting Early Development and Discovery Years – Creating Access to Resources and Education – Educare staff supports and promotes the TEDDY-CARE Committee, Early Head Start, Head Start, SB1519 Preschool, and other early childhood collaborative efforts in Pettis County.

Successes:

Definitely one of the greatest accomplishments for Educare occurred when a Pettis County provider received accreditation through the State of Missouri; and was the first family childcare provider in a four county region to achieve this status. She worked diligently for two years to complete requirements, observations, and course work to meet this high standard of care. Educare presented her with a \$250 check and a framed certificate.

Educare also assisted two providers in becoming licensed and two being registered. Educare continues to give technical assistance, consultation, support, and trainings to childcare providers at various stages of their career development. Over the last year Educare staff assisted providers with little or no computer knowledge with written information on how to search for start-up grant opportunities, CDA classes, and the OPEN Initiative.

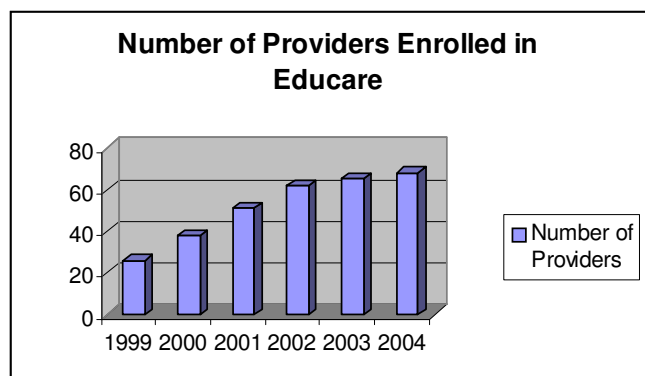
In September 2003, a childcare provider support group initiated by providers themselves, and supported by Educare staff, commenced and has been going strong ever since. An unlicensed Ukrainian provider who attended the first meeting brought her friend to the second meeting to interpret. She has attended every meeting since and received her license.

The Educare Director trained in CCOT (Child Care Orientation Training) assisted new family childcare providers with learning child development, child abuse prevention, health, safety & sanitation, and licensing regulations.

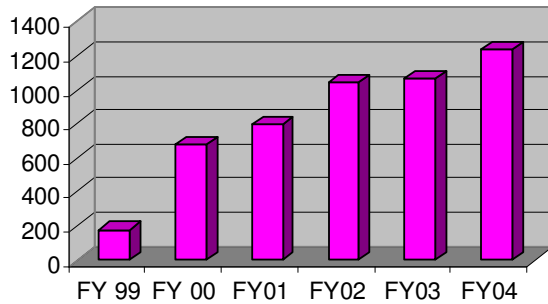
Educare provided support to 1,226 children an increase of 159 children from the prior year.

Ninty-eight families continued to use PAT after the three initial visits required by the PAT Certificate Incentive Program.

*Results



Pettis County Children Served by Educare



*Funding/Return on Investment

Caring Communities	\$ 0
Other State & Federal	\$ 192,300
In-Kind	\$ 15,843
Local Investment	<u>\$ 6,000</u>
Total	\$ 214,143

The Partnership is fortunate to be able to sustain early childhood initiatives without Caring Communities funding for the core result: *Children Ready to Enter School* in FY 2004.

Noteworthy

Spring of 2004 Educare staff collaborated with Family Childcare Support Group leaders to develop a marketing and public awareness tool. They designed a brightly colored shirt emphasizing the importance of providing quality care and education with the printed logo "Not Just the Babysitter" and "Childcare providers are the child's first teacher!!". Over fifty providers have purchased shirts. As an incentive for participation in trainings and support group meetings, some members received a free shirt.

Barriers / Road Blocks

Some providers would like to become licensed but do not have the funds to upgrade their homes to meet licensing standards. Other providers become discouraged in trying to navigate the accreditation process.