

WEST VIRGINIA EARLY CHILDHOOD TRAINING CONNECTIONS AND RESOURCES (WVECTCR)

WV Early Childhood Training Connections and Resources is a statewide program designed to provide professional development opportunities for the early care and education community. Through an extensive network of information, training, and technical assistance, resources, and collaboration, WVECTCR strives to improve the quality of early education services for young children and their families. WVECTCR serves over 12,500 clients statewide.

Location: Huntington, WV

Counties Served: All counties in WV (55)

Program highlights:

ACDS:

- Created a new database to increase accuracy and ease of record keeping and reporting.
- Completed a pilot project for day delivery model in Harrison County.
- Completed a pilot project for an online survey to evaluate ACDS instructors.
- Presented a workshop at the NAEYC Professional Development Institute in Indianapolis, IN.

Behavioral Consultation Coordination:

- Completed the development of sex training modules on Early Childhood Behavior Support.
- RVCDS Behavior Consultants served 20 counties, receiving 339 referrals, and providing onsite services to 327 programs, resulting in 624 visits to those programs.

WV Early Intervention Interagency Coordinating Council

- Began working on an Autism Academy, focusing on the needs of families of children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders.
- Collaborated with other early childhood programs to receive federal funding to work with the Center for Early Literacy Learning and the Technical Assistance Center for Social Emotional Interventions.



Below: Images from Celebrating Connections, February 2012

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood WV

- Received a \$25,000 grant from United Way of River Cities to provide scholarships for individuals in Cabell, Lincoln, Wayne and Mason counties.

Child Care Nurse Consultants:

- Distributed a quarterly newsletter throughout the state.
- Provided trainings at Celebrating Connections, Great Beginnings, and the Huntington Area Early Childhood Conference.
- Began implementation of Phase II of the Be Choosy project, a program designed to promote the development of healthy preferences in children.
- Provided input into the revised licensing regulations for child care in WV.

WV STARS:

- Approved for partnership with the National Registry Alliance by successful completion of the Partnership Eligibility Review.
- State Coordinator presented at the National Registry Alliance Annual Conference on the topic of trainer credentials.
- Launched additional versions of the online Professional Development Record.
- Reviewed over 2,000 applications from participants.

Publications:

- Distributed more than 26,000 publications statewide.

Support:

- Provided over \$50,000 in support for childcare associations, training grants and stipends statewide.
- Provided approximately \$250,000 in tiered reimbursement grants to WV childcare programs.



2011-2012 ANNUAL REPORT

A look back on the year's events at RVCDS



A message from the Executive Director

This was a year of growth and change for our agency. I am proud to be the executive director of an agency that has the potential to make positive changes in the lives of so many children and families throughout WV.

We at River Valley Child Development Services (RVCDS) know that the first years of life are absolutely fundamental to a child's development. Quality early learning opportunities through the programs of RVCDS help children to grow up healthy, safe and excited about learning. RVCDS is dedicated to supporting families and equipping child care providers with the information and resources necessary to make informed decisions for children and families in WV.

Among the notable happenings this year are:

- New, more user-friendly agency website
- Link Resource and Referral, the first R&R program in the state, celebrated its 20th anniversary
- First TIPS scholarships were awarded to families in need of assistance to pay for their child care at Enterprise Child Development Center
- T.E.A.C.H. awarded scholarships to Head Start and family providers for the first time in the program's history
- After school program was opened at WV State University in collaboration with Kanawha County Head Start

- The Family Child Care Food Program developed and implemented training for Link providers, enriching and growing the program
- WV Birth to Three continued to rank above state average for meeting state and federal timelines
- New directors were hired for all RVCDS Resource and Referral programs. The branding of RVCDS R & R's was begun as we strived to make our programs more consistent
- RVCDS celebrated its 40th anniversary with a family fun day at Ritter Park in Huntington
- The third group of Emerging Leaders completed their training. This training of staff, selected from all of our programs to help build future leaders within the agency, is a part of the agency succession plan.

As we begin planning for 2012-2013, we will continue to provide even more opportunities to help our younger citizens and their families. Technical assistance, publications, numerous training opportunities as well as resources will enable our dedicated staff to help young children reach their potential.

Sincerely,
Suzi L. Brodof
Suzi Brodof,
Executive Director



Celebrating our 40th Anniversary with a Family Fun Day at Ritter Park, October 2011



River Valley Child Development Services was established in 1971 by Norma Gray.

OUR MISSION: The mission of River Valley Child Development Services is to be a leader in providing high quality early childhood care and education services for children, families and communities.

Children/Families served this year: 17,617 • Budget: \$8.9 million

Funding Sources: West Virginia Department of Education, Cabell County Board of Education, West Virginia Birth to Three Central Finance Office, Office of Maternal, Child & Family Health, West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, US Department of Agriculture/WV DOE

River Valley Child Development Services • 611 7th Avenue • Huntington, WV 25701 • 304.523.3417
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Serving Children and Families Since 1971!

River Valley Child Development Services Program Overview FY 2011-2012

CHILD CARE RESOURCES AND REFERRAL PROGRAMS

River Valley Child Development Services has three Resource and Referral programs in WV. These programs serve 20 of the 55 counties in the state and provide services to over 4,000 families. All R&Rs are funded by WV Department of Health and Human Resources, State Division of Early Care and Education. All R&R programs provide financial assistance to families to help with the cost of quality child care. These programs also provide training for child care providers, technical assistance, and supportive services for new or established programs. The following is a brief breakdown of each outstanding program.

Link Child Care Resource and Referral

Established: 1992

Locations: Huntington, WV and Logan, WV

Counties Served: Boone, Cabell, Lincoln, Mason, Mingo, Putnam, and Wayne

Program highlights:

- Served an average of 1,625 families per quarter, using subsidized child care services.
- Extended hours at the Huntington office to better accommodate clients.
- Relocated Logan office to acquire more convenient, accessible space for clients and staff.

Connect Child Care Resource and Referral

Established: 2000

Location: Cabin Creek, WV

Counties Served: Clay, Jackson, Kanawha, Roane

Program highlights:

- Maintained lowest error rate of all Resource & Referral programs in the state of WV during the DHHR, Division of Early Care & Education Error Rate Reviews.
- Produced 2,400 Child Care Connections newsletters and distributed to child care providers and early childhood community each quarter.
- Provided technical assistance to more than 50 child care providers and interviewed more than 40 providers for training assessment needs.

Choices Child Care Resource and Referral

Established: 2001

Locations: Parkersburg, WV, Clarksburg, WV

Counties Served: Calhoun, Doddridge, Gilmer, Harrison, Pleasants, Ritchie, Wirt, and Wood

Program highlights:

- Infant Toddler Specialist presented a workshop at SECA, a national conference.
- Training team significantly increased technical assistance and is creating a Child Observation and Assessment series training.
- Staff attended 12 community events, including “Baby and Me” at Meadowbrook Mall, reaching over 100 new and expectant mothers.

ENTERPRISE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

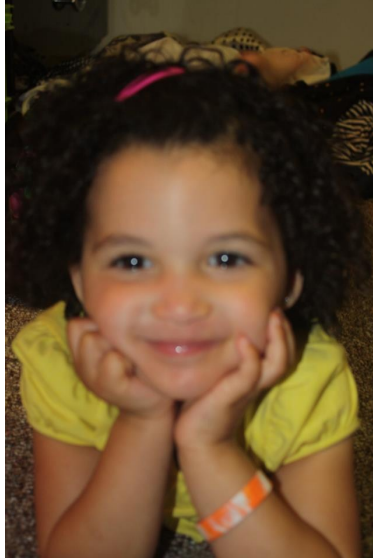
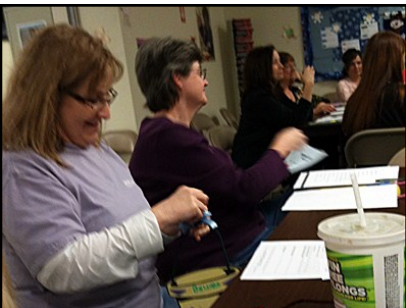
Enterprise opened in 1997 as a collaborative project with the City of Huntington. Located in Huntington’s West End, it was opened with the intent to help assist low income families in the community, or families continuing their education. Enterprise is licensed to serve 74 children from age 6 weeks to Pre-K, and currently serves families in West Virginia, Ohio and Kentucky.

Location: Huntington, WV

Counties Served: Primarily Cabell

Program highlights:

- Received grant from the Huntington Foundation to install 15 security cameras.
- With the closing of Norma Gray Early Learning Center, Enterprise staff and families helped ease the transition from Norma Gray to Enterprise.
- Established a Love for Luke fund, to assist the family of a child at Enterprise diagnosed with leukemia in March of 2011. At the time of printing, over \$3,000 had been raised.
- Requalified for national accreditation by NAEYC, the National Association for the Education of Young Children — 1 of fewer than 30 centers in the state of WV to earn the rating.
- Held St. Jude’s Trike-a-thon, which raised over \$150 for St. Jude’s Hospital.



Left: (Top) Link celebrates its 20th Anniversary, complete with a visit from the Cat in the Hat, May 2012! (Center) Connect Director Denise Truman receives the “Big Fish” award at the agency in-service, October 2011. (Bottom) Choices Staff in-service, February 2012.

Above: (Left) Enterprise sold Love for Luke bracelets to benefit a child at the center after he was diagnosed with leukemia in March. (Right) Children from School Age Connections learn the value of good nutrition at a cooking demonstration at Huntington’s Kitchen.

Right: West Virginia Birth to Three provides support for children and families during this critical age for development.

SCHOOL AGE CONNECTIONS

School Age Connections is an on-site afterschool enrichment program, also providing care for days out of school, winter, spring, and summer break. School Age Connections is a chance for School Age children to get the hands-on experiences to bring book work to real life. Students are given the opportunity to relax, enjoy “learning just to learn,” hang out with their friends in a safe environment, and have their voices heard. There are two school sites in Huntington and one school site in Institute, WV, as well as an offsite program at Barnett (Weed and Seed) in Huntington for school breaks. Each of these programs provides a safe, nurturing environment, enrichment activities, homework help and a nutritious snack for children. The School Age program serves over 150 children and families.

Location: Huntington, WV, and Institute, WV

Counties Served: Cabell, Kanawha

Number of Staff: 8

Program highlights:

- Enrichment activities, including a computer lab provided through a 21st Century Grant collaboration.
- Provided a summer enrichment program focusing on the history and heritage of West Virginia.
- Closed Southside School Age Connections because the school decided to start its own after school program.



FAMILY CHILD CARE FOOD PROGRAM

The Family Child Care Food Program (FCCFP) is a nutrition program that reimburses home child care providers for serving healthy meals and snacks that meet simple meal pattern requirements to the children in their care.

The FCCFP is designed to ensure that children in child care receive the best possible nutrition to help them grow up strong and healthy and to help establish healthy eating habits for life.

The FCCFP is a component of the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

This program serves over 1,000 families per year and has over 100 providers statewide.

Location: Huntington, WV

Counties Served: Cabell, Lincoln, Mason, Mingo, Putnam, and Wayne

Program highlights:

- Built and nurtured a relationship with Link.
- Attended CACFP conference in Morgantown.
- Participated on the Office of Child Nutrition Food Chart Revision Committee.



WV BIRTH TO THREE RAU 3&4

West Virginia Birth to Three is a statewide system of services and supports for children under age three who have a delay in their development, or may be at risk of having a delay, and for the families of those children. WV Birth to Three, as the lead agency for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), assures that family centered, community based services are available to all eligible children and families. The two Regional Administrative Units (RAUs) coordinated by River Valley Child Development Services serve as the entry point to these services and work to facilitate access to the supports and services needed by the child. This system defines who is qualified to provide services to infants and toddlers with developmental delays, ensuring that personnel are appropriately and adequately prepared and trained. River Valley Child Development Services acts as the fiscal agent to this system.

Counties Served: Boone, Cabell, Clay, Jackson, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, Mingo, Putnam, Roane and Wayne

- Program highlights:
- Held “Speed Resources Fair,” where over 30 agencies described the services they provide for families in WV.
 - Designed and distributed “Red Flags” posters to physicians’ offices in an effort to draw attention to early warning signs for developmental delays.

