



## **B-H-K CHILD DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

**700 Park Avenue  
Houghton, Michigan 49931**

*'Serving children and families through comprehensive  
early childhood education, health and family support services'*

**Crystal Verran**  
*Board Chairperson*

**Mark Ware**  
*Council Chairperson*

**Rod Liimatainen**  
*Executive Director*

**PHONE**  
(906) 482-3663  
(800) 236-5657  
**EMAIL**  
bhk@bhkfirst.org  
**FAX**  
(906) 482-7FAX  
**WEB**  
www.bhkfirst.org

To: The Daily Mining Gazette, L'Anse Sentinel, WCCY/WOLV, WCUP, WGGL-FM,  
WMPL/WZRK, WUPY, WLUC-TV6, WMTU, WNMU  
From: B-H-K Child Development Board  
Contact: Caroline Penny or Rod Liimatainen, 482-3663  
Date: September 30, 2004

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **New home-visiting program reaches out to caregivers**

### **Educational home visits, toys, training part of offered services**

HOUGHTON – Are you a grandparent or teen who regularly cares for an infant, toddler or preschooler? Looking for ways to improve your knowledge of early childhood development?

Grandparents, teens, relatives and others who care for young children in the Copper Country may benefit from a new home-visiting program being offered by BHK Child Development Board.

“There are many parents working or going to school who need to place children in the care of others,” said Rod Liimatainen, BHK executive director. “This new project will help these non-parental caregivers increase their knowledge about child development and borrow materials that really can provide tremendous benefits to a child’s growth and development.”

Interested caregivers may receive up to two 60-minute home visits a month from a BHK employee trained in early childhood education. Home visits will focus on age-appropriate learning activities customized to the needs of both the child and caregiver.

Caregivers and children also can take advantage of play opportunities at several

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playgroups held weekly in Baraga, Houghton and Keweenaw counties. In addition, a special Grandparents Support Group is being organized in cooperation with the Copper Country Mental Health Institute.

“Playgroups and the new support group provide a great chance for caregivers and children to gather and play with other people in a similar situation,” said Caroline Penny, project coordinator. “The groups offer opportunities to learn from other caregivers’ experience while the children learn to play and get along with others.”

The project also offers toys, books, videos, music and other learning materials for caregivers to borrow and use at home. These materials may be borrowed from BHK Parent Resource Centers in Baraga, Houghton and Laurium or from BHK’s Mobile Lending Library, which travels a monthly 162-mile loop around the Copper Country.

Penny added that special training opportunities such as baby-sitting classes will be offered in the future.

The project is funded through the federal Dept. of Health and Human Services. To learn more, call Penny at 482-3663 or 800-236-5657 or visit BHK’s Web site at [www.bhkfirst.org](http://www.bhkfirst.org)