

# Copper Country Focus on the First Five

*Working to ensure school readiness for all area children*

809 Hecla Street Hancock, MI 49930

**Phone:** 482-4250 **Fax:** 482-1931 **Parent Helpline:** 1-888-610-2323 **On the Web:** [www.coppercountryparenting.org](http://www.coppercountryparenting.org)

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B-H-K Child  
Development Board  
482-3663

Keweenaw Family  
Resource Center  
482-9363

**Copper Country  
Intermediate School District  
482-4250**

Western U.P.  
District Health Department  
482-7382

Copper Country  
Mental Health Institute  
482-4880

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, January 20, 2003

## **Contact:**

Cathy Benda, 482-3663

## **Free parenting classes to focus on communication with children**

HOUGHTON – All area parents with children birth to 5 are invited to register for a free, six-part parenting workshop called “How to Talk So Kids will Listen and Listen so Kids will Talk.” The series will run from 10 a.m. to noon on six consecutive Wednesdays beginning Feb. 5 at Keweenaw Kids Company Parent Resource Center in Laurium.

“This series is a great way for parents to learn about fostering communication with their children,” said Cathy Benda, who coordinates the workshops. “Much has been learned over the past 10 years regarding how young children learn. It’s amazing how that research can translate into effective child-rearing techniques that help children succeed.”

Among other things, parents will learn about cooperation, positive discipline, and helping their children develop a positive self-image by focusing on their strengths – all of which will help prepare young children for success in school.

Space is limited, so registration is required. To register, call 482-3663 or 1-800-236-5657 by Friday, Jan. 31, 2003. Childcare and snacks will be provided.

The workshops are sponsored by Copper Country Focus on the First Five, a group of local agencies providing school-readiness services to parents with young children. Other services include parent resource rooms; book and toy lending libraries; playgroups; story hours; health and developmental screenings; parent support groups; family wellness activities; the toll-free Parent Helpline; a parenting Web site at [www.coppercountryparenting.org](http://www.coppercountryparenting.org) and more.

Project funding is through the Michigan Dept. of Education’s All Students Achieve Program – Parent Involvement and Education grant.