

**B-H-K Child Development Board  
700 Park Avenue  
Houghton, Michigan 49931**

Serving Children & Families  
through:  
Head Start/Preschool,  
Early Start,  
Child Care,  
Even Start,  
AmeriCorps, and  
Other Family Services

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To: The Daily Mining Gazette, L'Anse Sentinel, MTU Lode,  
WCCY/WOLV, WCUP, WGGL-FM, WMPL/WZRK, WUPY,  
WBUP-TV5, WLUC-TV6, WMTU, WNMU  
From: B-H-K Child Development Board  
Contact: Harvey Filppula, 482-3663  
Date: Feb. 22, 2002



**Print media editors: Photos will be emailed. Thanks.**

Cutline 1: The Cat in the Hat, a popular children's story-book character, entertains children during an Open House Thursday at B-H-K Child Development Board's new Family Resource Center in the Keweenaw Kids Company building in Laurium. The center offers playgroups, story hours, a toy-lending library and an adult-education literacy lab.

Cutline 2: Popular children's story-book character The Cat in the Hat entertains guests at an Open House Thursday at B-H-K Child Development Board's new Family Resource Center in the Keweenaw Kids Company building in Laurium. The center offers playgroups, story hours, a toy-lending library and an adult-education literacy lab.

Cutline 3: Hannah Kariniemi, 2-1/2, of Mohawk, spends time Thursday on a Hatch computer at B-H-K Child Development Board's Keweenaw Kids Company Family Resource Center. The computer contains age-appropriate learning software for children. Hannah and her mother, Sherry, were among dozens who attended an open house Thursday at the center, located at 414 Hecla Street in Laurium.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Open House attracts dozens to Family Resource Center**

Keweenaw Kids Company building serves parents and young children

LAURIUM – Dozens of area families with young children attended an open house Thursday at B-H-K Child Development Board's newest Family Resource Center on the north end.

Parents and young children enjoyed food, fun, and a special story time featuring popular

**(more)**

children's book character The Cat in the Hat at the Keweenaw Kids Company building. The facility, located at 414 Hecla Street in Laurium, houses a Parent Resource Center and Adult Education Center.

"We had a good crowd and a wonderful opportunity to show people our first dedicated Family Resource Center here on the north end of our program," said Harvey Filppula, B-H-K assistant director and coordinator of the Even Start adult-education program.

The center provides playgroups, story hours and toy-lending library for parents with young children as well as an adult-literacy lab where parents may study to finish their GED.

Sherry Kariniemi of Mohawk and her daughter, Hannah, age 2-1/2, were among those who attended. Kariniemi said she didn't know the center existed until reading about it in The Daily Mining Gazette, but she said she and Hannah will take part in on-going activities.

"I thought it was fantastic," Kariniemi said of the center. "I was very impressed with how the workers worked and played with the children."

The adult-education area is equipped with computers and appropriate software for parents who wish to finish high school or earn their GED. And the Parent Resource Center, Filppula added, has plenty of offerings for parents with young children – especially through its lending library.

"It just helps people get safe, developmentally appropriate toys, games and other learning materials for their children," he said.

Parent Resource Center activities are open to all area families with children birth to age 5. Adult Education programs are open to pregnant mothers and parents with children under age 8 who have not completed high school.

B-H-K Child Development Board offers preschool, child-care, adult education and other family services in Baraga, Houghton and Keweenaw counties. For more information about B-H-K programs, call 482-3663 or (800) 236-5657.