

**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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WCCY/WOLV, WCUP, WGGL-FM, WMPL/WZRK, WUPY,  
WBUP-TV5, WLUC-TV6, WMTU, WNMU  
From: B-H-K Child Development Board  
Contact: Rod Liimatainen, 482-3663  
Date: Feb. 7, 2003



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Parents invited to Feb. 12 Open House at new Parent Resource Center  
Families also welcome to help B-H-K build an overnight snow statue at event**

HOUGHTON – All area families are invited to an Open House from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 12, at Portage Family Place, the region's newest Parent Resource Center. The center is in the former Portage Motel behind Gardens of the North along M-26 in Houghton.

The Open House will provide the public a chance to tour the facility, which includes a toy and book lending library, a computer lab for parents working to finish high school or earn their GED, a comfortable lounge for group meetings, a play area for young children and an infant-toddler childcare center.

Snacks will be provided at the Open House, and a preschool story hour – which may include a surprise visit from the Cat in the Hat – is set for 6 p.m. Families with young children also may help build a Winter Carnival overnight snow statue in the adjacent parking lot.

"We're hoping this center turns into a fun place for Houghton-area parents with young children to visit regularly," said Harvey Filppula, B-H-K assistant director. "Not only does the center have nice areas and activities for parents and children, but it also offers families a chance to socialize with others."

**(more)**

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Starting Feb. 18, the center will host weekly story hours with fun make-it, take-it projects from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The center's toy and book lending library also will be open from 9 a.m. to noon on Monday mornings.

The center is the fourth Parent Resource Center to open in the Copper Country. Other resource centers are located in the Baraga Head Start Annex, the Keweenaw Kids Company building in Laurium and the Lake Linden-Hubbell High School building. Activities at each of these centers are open to all area families with children birth to 5.

For more information, call 482-3663 or 1-800-236-5657.

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**CHILDREN, OUR WORK, OUR HOPE**