

**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

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**B-H-K finalizes purchase of two buildings**

**Former child-care center and motel will serve area children and parents**

HOUGHTON – B-H-K Child Development Board recently finalized the purchase of two buildings. Both will be used for child- and adult-education programs.

The Keweenaw Kids Co. building at 414 Hecla St. in Laurium serves as a parent resource center and as a base for B-H-K's adult-education programs on the north end. The building, which previously was operated as a child-care center by Keweenaw Home Nursing and Hospice, has been open since early January.

The former Portage Motel at 503 Park Ave. in Houghton also will serve as a parent resource center, although it is not yet open to the public. Other portions of the 17-unit building will be used for adult-education programs and potentially child care.

**(more)**

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B-H-K Executive Director Rod Liimatainen said the buildings will become convenient gathering places for area parents who are looking for fun things to do with their children or who hope to socialize with other parents while working toward their high-school diploma or GED.

“These buildings are tremendous assets for the community,” Liimatainen said. “The Keweenaw Kids building is in a convenient location in Laurium, which is in the center of our northern operations, and the former motel is adjacent to B-H-K’s main center, which makes it convenient for programming and operations.”

B-H-K already operates two other parent resource centers – one in the Lake Linden-Hubbell High School building across from the library, and another at the June Forest Child Development Center near Baraga High School in Baraga.

Once operational, the resource centers operate from 9 a.m. to noon on Mondays and from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Regular weekly events include playgroups and story hours for young children and their parents. The centers also serve as lending libraries for parents, offering toys and other learning materials for check out.

A fifth resource center – this one a modified school bus – will be rolling out soon to serve parents in remote locations.

Although the Keweenaw Kids building is already open to parents, staff are tentatively planning to have an open house in February to welcome parents to the center. Entertainment, food, special giveaways, and parenting information will be available.

The former Portage Motel building will open later this spring.

For more information, call 482-3663.