

Copper Country Focus on the First Five

Working to ensure school success for all children 0-5

809 Hecla Street
Hancock, MI 49930
Phone: 482-4250
Fax: 482-1931
Parent Helpline: 1-888-610-2323
www.bhkresources.org

C. C. Intermediate
School District
482-4250

B-H-K Child
Development Board
482-3663

Keweenaw Family
Resource Center
482-9363

Western U.P. District
Health Department
482-7382

Copper Country
Mental Health
Services Institute
482-4880

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: Copper Country Focus on the First Five
Contact: Caroline Penny, 482-3663
Date: July 23, 2002

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mobile lending library on way to rural Copper Country towns

Parents may borrow toys, books, other learning materials from new B-H-K bus

HOUGHTON – Area parents with young children need not fear the dog days of summer and the cries of “There’s nothing to do!”

That’s because B-H-K Child Development Board’s mobile lending library will be rolling out to several rural towns in August, offering parents with children age birth to 5 the chance to borrow age-appropriate toys, books, videos and other learning materials.

“This bus offers parents in rural areas a chance to keep their children occupied in quality activities without having to travel long distances to town,” said Caroline Penny, a B-H-K home visitor who drives the bus. “Another neat thing is that there’s no cost for this service – it’s available to all parents regardless of income or other factors.”

The bus, which is colorfully painted with popular children’s storybook characters such as the Cat in the Hat, will be making two trips in August to Aura and Covington in Baraga County and Mohawk in Keweenaw County.

From 9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Aug. 7th and 28th, the bus will be at the Covington Head Start Center. Later those days, the bus will stop from 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Pikku Koulu Head Start Center in Aura. Then, on August 8th and 29th from 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., the mobile

(more)

2-2-2

lending library will visit the Early Childhood Center in Mohawk.

The only requirement for borrowing materials from the bus is that parents must sign a checkout form. Materials generally may be borrowed for two weeks.

This fall, the bus will drive a scheduled route to rural areas in Baraga, Houghton and Keweenaw counties. Parents will be able to access the bus schedule by calling the toll-free Parent Helpline at 1-888-610-2323.

The mobile lending library is just one of numerous services available to parents with young children through a grant from the Michigan Department of Education's All Students Achieve Program – Parent Involvement and Education (ASAP-PIE) project, which seeks to ensure school readiness for all young Michigan children. Other ASAP-PIE services available locally include Parent Resource Rooms, parent-child playgroups and story hours, health and developmental screenings, parent support groups, parenting workshops, family wellness activities and preschool enhancement services.

Locally, several human-service agencies collaborate to provide ASAP-PIE services, including the Copper Country Intermediate School District, B-H-K Child Development, Keweenaw Family Resource Center, Western U.P. District Health Department, Copper Country Mental Health Services Institute, and several local libraries.

For more information about the mobile lending library or other ASAP-PIE services, call the toll-free Parent Helpline at 888-610-2323.