

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

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

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Web site for Copper Country parents with young children now online

HOUGHTON – A Web site full of information, activities and resources for all area parents with children age birth to 5 is now operational.

The site, found at www.coppercountryparenting.org, offers descriptions and schedules of activities and events for families with young children as well as links to national parenting web sites and other information.

The primary purpose of the site is to provide parents with information about local services that will help prepare young children for success in school, according to Emilie Krznarich, who coordinates Copper Country Focus on the First Five a coalition of human-service agencies that provides these services in Baraga, Houghton and Keweenaw counties.

“This site should be an excellent resource for parents with young children,” Krznarich said. “The site is loaded with useful, relevant information about services designed to help all parents prepare their children for success in school.”

Parents who visit the site will learn about numerous 0-5 services, including: Parent Resource Rooms; Toy and Book Lending Libraries, including a Mobile Lending Library; parent-child Playgroups and Story Hours; Parenting Classes; Hospital and Home Visits; Health and Developmental Screenings; Family Wellness Activities; Early Childhood Special Education and Mental Health Services; Infant Support Services; the Parent Helpline; and more.

The site also includes information on early childhood services offered by the five key agencies involved in Copper Country Focus on the First Five: the Copper Country Intermediate School District, B-H-K Child Development Board, Keweenaw Family Resource Center, Western U.P. District Health Department and Copper Country Mental Health Services Institute.

Rod Liimatainen, executive director of B-H-K, said the site helps to fill a gap for parents.

“Given the rural nature of our area, parents often aren’t aware of services or don’t

(more)

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think there's anything offered nearby," Liimatainen said. "One of the neat things about the Copper Country Focus on the First Five project is that it reaches out to local rural families through resources like the Mobile Lending Library.

"And by visiting this new Web site, parents, including those in the most remote areas of the Copper Country, can learn more about what's available from the comfort of their own home."

Parents without Internet access may still use the toll-free Parent Helpline to learn about these services or to ask parenting questions of any nature. This confidential, 24-hour-a-day hotline is available by calling 1-888-610-2323.

The site was designed by Houghton-based OPUS Web Technologies, which is hosting the site and providing on-going technical support.

Services available through Copper Country Focus on the First Five are funded through a grant from the Michigan Department of Education's All Students Achieve Program – Parent Involvement and Education (ASAP-PIE) project.