

**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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WBUP-TV5, WLUC-TV6, WMTU, WNMU
Contact: Dr. Terry Frankovich, 482-3663
Date: Feb. 22, 2002



Editors: Photos will be emailed; cutlines are included below. Please run this item in your community news sections.

Cutline 1: Jacob O’Kane, 6, and Brianne Maggio, 5, both of Hancock, smile proudly in front of a new toothbrush holder in their child-care room at the Ryan Center in Hancock. The Copper Country Dental Society recently donated 10 holders to B-H-K Child Development Board for use in its preschool and child-care classrooms.

Cutline 2: Children at B-H-K Child Development Board’s Ryan Center in Hancock celebrate the arrival of a new toothbrush holder. The Copper Country Dental Society donated 10 Plak Smacker holders to B-H-K for use in its preschool and child-care classrooms.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dental group donates toothbrush holders to B-H-K

\$500 gift will keep brushes clean and dry in preschool, child-care rooms

HOUGHTON – Area children will be smiling a little brighter, thanks to a gift from the Copper Country Dental Society.

The society, which is made up of local dentists, recently donated 10 Plak Smacker toothbrush holders to B-H-K Child Development Board for use in preschool and child-care centers. The holders, which come with 20 colorful toothbrushes, are valued at \$50 each.

“We usually make donations in February during Children’s Dental Health Month,” said

(more)

2-2-2

Brent Johnson, a local dentist and member of the group. “It was brought up by a grandmother that the local Head Start classrooms were really in need of toothbrush holders, so we thought we could meet that need.”

Dr. Terry Frankovich, B-H-K’s health director, said the toothbrush holders keep the brushes separate, which allows them to dry in a sanitary manner. She added that regular brushing is an important part of preschool education.

“All the children in our classrooms brush after meals – it’s an important part of teaching them dental hygiene,” she said.

Shelly Orr, an assistant teacher at B-H-K’s Ryan Center in Hancock, agreed.

“If they learn to brush at an early age, they’ll carry the habit through adulthood,” she said.

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.