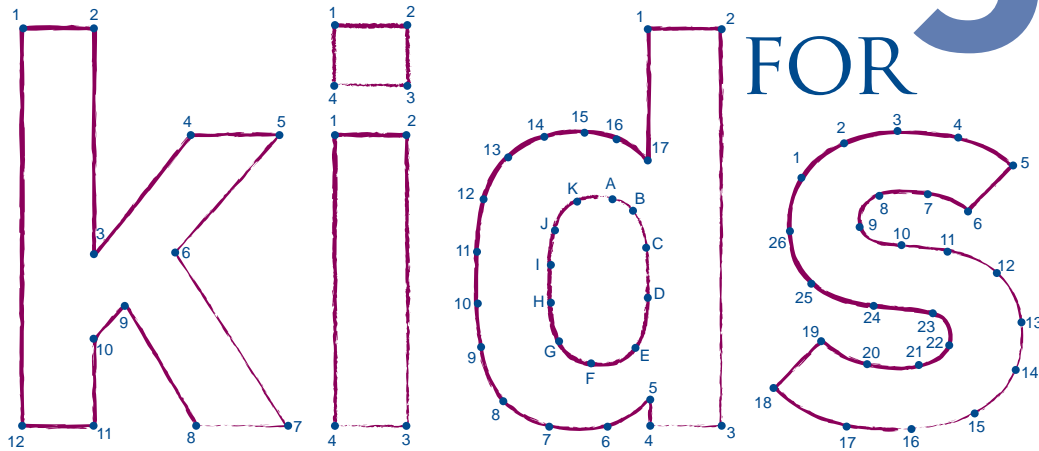


# 2010 connecting




ACTION FOR CHILDREN'S REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



empowering parents, educating providers and engaging the community

# dear friends

## OF ACTION FOR CHILDREN:

Young children need the best of parenting and child care and early education so that they can succeed and thrive in today's world as they prepare to create tomorrow's. 

Our commitment is to provide programs and services to ensure that young children will be cared for in environments that are safe, healthy and nurturing – creating a foundation for their success in school and life.

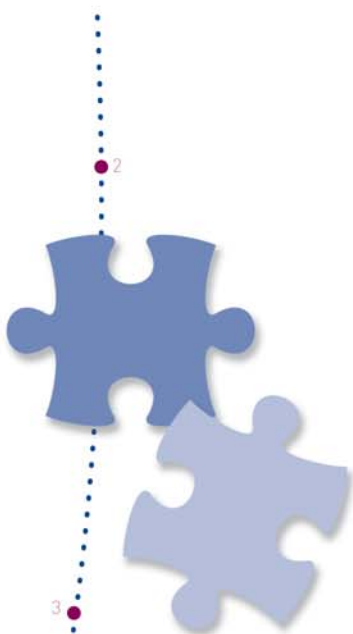
Connecting the dots for children is a form of learning through play. You probably remember enjoying that activity as a child or as parent with your own children. Remember, how pleased you were when your connections of numbers or letters revealed a picture? In the adult vernacular, the phrase “connect the dots” is often used as a metaphor to illustrate an ability (or lack of ability) to look at a lot of information and find the “big picture” that may be, in fact, a threat to our future.

At Action for Children, we “connect the dots” from scientific, economic and education research, focused on early learning, to guide our work in behalf of young children’s quality child care and early learning experiences.


There are so many wonderful organizations that we work with that help with a child’s survival needs – food, clothing and shelter. We “take action” to see that children not only survive, but thrive, in settings – whether at home or in a child-care program – where they can grow, develop and reach their full potential.

We address the quality care and early education needs of a child by empowering and educating their two most important first teachers, parents and providers, giving them the skills and knowledge they need to create what is called a child’s third teacher, a nurturing environment.

“Connecting for Kids” is what we do and have been doing at Action for Children for nearly 40 years. We chose connecting as our 2010 theme; and we highlight our work in tweets and shouts.





Throughout a year of economic challenges, we took action: creating and strengthening our connections with central Ohio parents, providers, and the community. 

A major challenge for child care and early learning was the loss of Ohio's Early Learning Initiative (ELI). In July 2010, ELI was eliminated from the state's budget. A model for a comprehensive system of child care and early learning in Ohio, ELI provided a rich learning environment to preschool-age children from families at or below 200 percent of poverty, as well as comprehensive family support services. The loss of ELI had a distinct ripple effect – affecting children, families, and child care providers.

We cannot deny the economic challenges that have been presented to us this year. As you read this report, we hope you will get a sense of your important part in the big picture. You have stood with us and helped us remain strong with your gifts of time, talent and treasure.



we thank you and  
value your connection.

Sincerely,



**Rhonda Fraas**  
President  
Board of Directors



**Diane Bennett**  
CEO

**P.S.** We look forward to the countdown to our 40th anniversary (April 2012)!



# action for children

## OUR VISION

Action for Children will be the community leader in transforming the future of child care into quality early learning experiences for every child in central Ohio.

Achieving this vision is a shared responsibility. Action for Children will work with others by developing leadership and providing access to comprehensive information for community decision-making. Our partners include: families, employers, child-care providers, other human and social service organizations, neighborhoods, educators, funders, policymakers, and faith-based organizations.

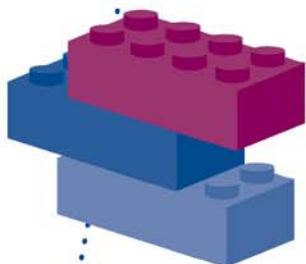
## OUR MISSION

We will:

- develop and advocate for early childhood education initiatives;
- foster the growth of early learning environments and assure their availability to all children in central Ohio; and
- help families endow their children with quality early learning experiences.

## OUR STRATEGIC GOALS

- 1) Originate, develop and promote early childhood learning initiatives.
- 2) Secure financing and support from government, community, and business leaders so that all children in central Ohio have access to quality early learning experiences.
- 3) Marshal community resources to improve access to high-quality, affordable early learning experiences.
- 4) Strive for collaborative community participation in planning and decision-making, and promote the importance of racial diversity and cultural issues in early childhood education.
- 5) Provide parents with the information, tools and knowledge necessary to provide their children with quality early learning experiences.
- 6) Make available to providers the resources, technical assistance and knowledge they need to transform child care into early learning experiences.



## Numbers at a glance

Connecting for central Ohio kids in Franklin, Delaware, Union, Madison, Fairfield, Licking and Pickaway counties



### • 8,963 Community Parents

TAPP (The Art of Positive Parenting) seminars, classes and parenting workshops; Parent Education Program for Gladden Community House's Family 2 Family; Information and Resources via phone, fax, e-mail and e-Search, etc.; Father Factor, Nurturing Nature in the Wonder Years; Woodward Family Center; Neighborhood Network Family Services in Groveport; Learning Begins Right From the Start Early Learning Kits for Families; Sunny 95's Neighborhood Block Parties, promoting parent services; Parents Who Parent Separately; Putting the Children First; Help Me Grow Parent Groups; Caring for 2 (through Columbus Public Health); Family Wellness through Columbus Kids (a program of United Way of Central Ohio and Columbus City Schools)



### • 10,691 Child Care and Early Learning Professionals

Step Up to Quality; Accreditation; In-Service Training Workshops; After School workshops; USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program; How to Start a Child Care Center Workshop; Home Child Care Business Recruitment; Caring Communities Birth to 3; Somali Limited Certified Providers; Nurturing Nature in the Wonder Years; Nurturing Nature in the Wonder Years through Healthy Habits; Nurturing Nature through the Foods We Eat for After School educators; Neighborhood Network; Ohio Professional Registry training; CDA consultations; Nutrition Education through Healthy Child Care Ohio



## Benefiting more than 40,000 community children

(infants, toddlers, preschoolers, school-agers)



## LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD FOR BUCKEYE KIDS\*

Each year nearly 30,000 children are born in central Ohio – our Baby Buckeyes. Think of all the Buckeye potential in those numbers. If we can successfully nurture, support and educate these Buckeye babies, in just 18 to 25 years, we will have developed a Buckeye workforce to carry on a winning tradition.

## THE HECKMAN EQUATION

A solution for better education and health outcomes, less crime and poverty and greater economic prosperity...

**(Invest+Develop+Sustain=Gain):  
The Economic Payoff**

**Invest** in educational and developmental resources for disadvantaged families to provide equal access to successful early human development.

**+ Develop** cognitive skills and social skills early – from birth to age five when it matters most.

**+ Sustain** early development with effective education through adulthood.

**= Gain** more capable, productive and valuable citizens that pay dividends to America for generations to come.

*James Heckman, Nobel Prize winning University of Chicago Professor of Economics, 2009*

*\* Action for Children Special Report, November 2009*

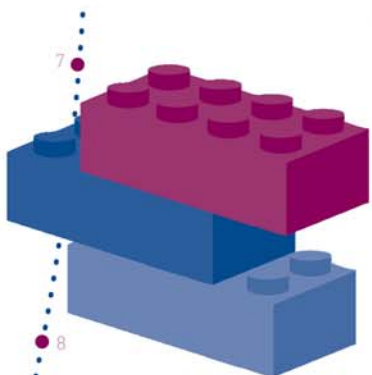


Photo credit: RecSchool, Grove City Parks and Recreation

“One of the children in the class that I teach, Marshall, loves finding holes in the brush along the paved path, and asking if we can explore. He is a head-first, plunge-in kind of guy, and loves being inside the ‘woods.’ He often leads the way, tramping through honeysuckle stems and climbing over branches. Others are a little more hesitant, but always emerge with huge smiles because ‘We did it!’ One day we came upon a huge uprooted tree, right across the path. All of the children thought it was hilarious that the teachers had to crawl under it too! Not only are the children learning to be adventurous, but teachers are being challenged too.”

**Thank you so much** for spreading the word, and **inspiring us to grow!**

*~ Nurturing Nature in the Wonder Years attendee*



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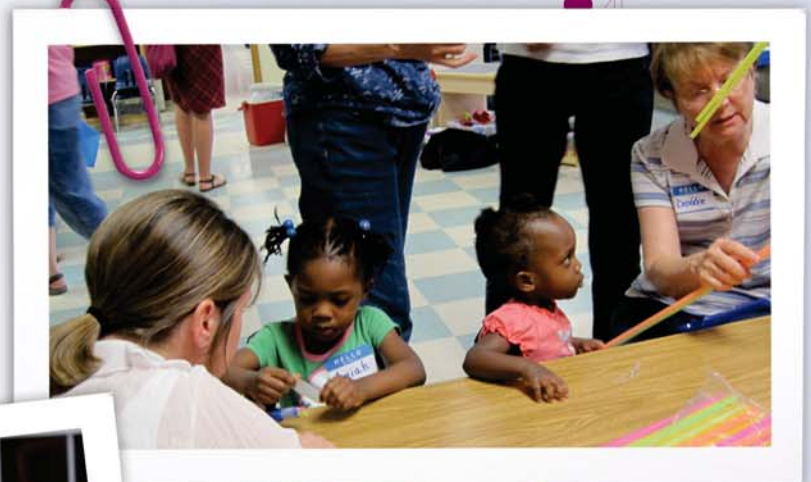
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“Individually we cannot be everything to everyone, collectively we can meet the needs of most, and creatively we can strengthen and support our collective mission.”

~ Parent Education Network attendee

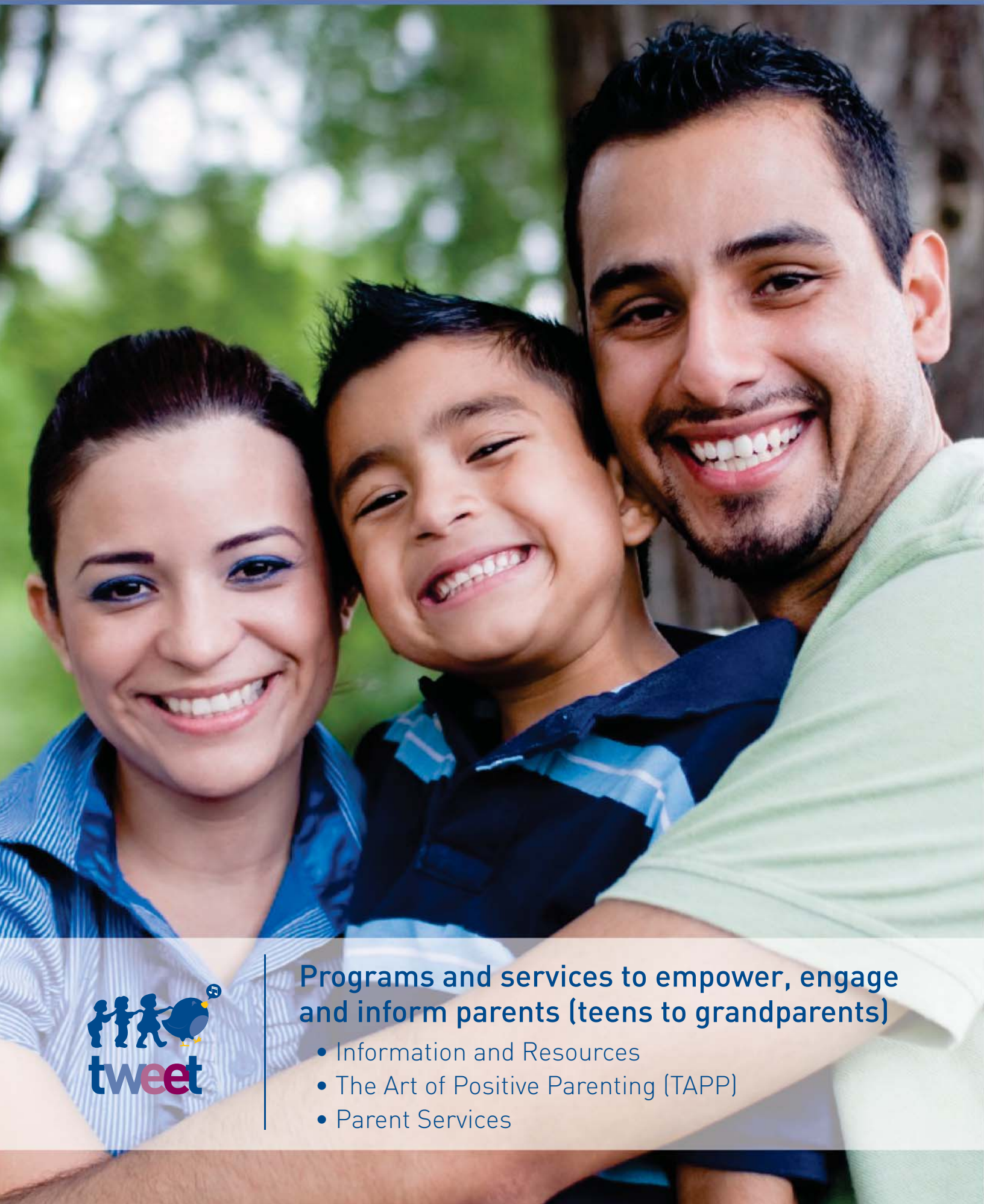


“**This TAPP class** taught me ways of dealing with my children that I would have never used. I now try to let my children be decision-makers instead of me and I use no roadblocks which I now understand limit a child’s self esteem and confidence, which I would never want to do. I even withdraw from conflicts and I see good decisions from my children when I do. I love it!”

~ Comment from a recent TAPP attendee







**Programs and services to empower, engage and inform parents (teens to grandparents)**

- Information and Resources
- The Art of Positive Parenting (TAPP)
- Parent Services



# CONNECTING FOR parents

More than ever parents need reliable information about how to nurture their children's early learning and development; support and encouragement in their role as their child's first teacher; resources to find child care; and information about how to identify quality child care and early education programs.

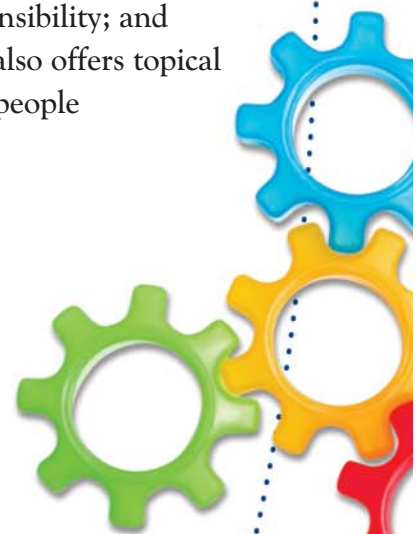
**INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICES** support the child care and early learning needs of families in the seven-county region of central Ohio. As lead agency for the region, Action for children manages and maintains a database of 1,665 child care and early education programs in the region with capacity for 83,844 children from newborn to school age. This year 6,104 families in the region were served, benefitting 8,457 children (33 percent infants and 48 percent at or below 150 percent of poverty).

**WOODWARD FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER (FRC)**, located on the grounds of Woodward Elementary School in Delaware County, provides families in the neighborhood with the support and services needed to allow children to take full advantage of the educational opportunities provided by the school.

A typical household is at or below 100 percent of poverty, with average monthly income per household of \$1,251.14 and average household size of three persons.

This year the program provided intensive services to more than 140 families. The most requested services included employment, medical, financial, housing, translation, and tax services through the VITA program.

**THE ART OF POSITIVE PARENTING PARENT EDUCATION CLASSES (TAPP)** features six-week and three-week classes that are designed to help parents: raise children to have strong self esteem; listen to children's problems; identify and express feelings; set limits on behavior; resolve conflict effectively; encourage children's cooperation; encourage responsibility; and manage stress. This year 309 parents/guardians attended the classes. TAPP also offers topical workshops and seminars, including Parents Who Parent Separately, and 884 people participated.



# shout out PROJECTS FOR parents

## FATHER FACTOR

In 2010, Action for Children was awarded a grant through the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood to provide services to fathers within the faith-based community. We partnered with The TROY Group to develop a model to serve the fathers within the Linden neighborhood in Northeast Columbus.

For the six-week Father Factor series, Action for Children adapted The Art of Positive Parenting (TAPP) curriculum to incorporate the Daddy's Promise Pledge, created by Ed Gordon, which asks men to hold promises to their children. Fathers, some single, some who do not have positive memories of their own fathers, and others who recognize the importance of being a positive influence, are guided in techniques that will help them be nurturing, caring fathers, a positive force in the lives of their young children. The long range goal is to increase children's school performance and attendance as a result of a strong relationship with their fathers.

A Town Hall Meeting was convened on April 16, 2010 at New Salem Baptist Church in the Linden area. A panel featured religious leaders and community professionals with an interest in fatherhood initiatives. The event served as an opportunity to invite fathers to attend a six-week educational series. On Father's Day, a celebration service was held at New Salem, and 50 dads were honored as "graduates" of the first six-week series.

The Father Factor program will be expanded to other faith-based sites in the community with the expectation of serving a minimum of 150 more fathers during the 2010-2011 project year.



*Photos from 2010 Fatherhood Summit*





## Scoopy the Salad

### Ingredients:

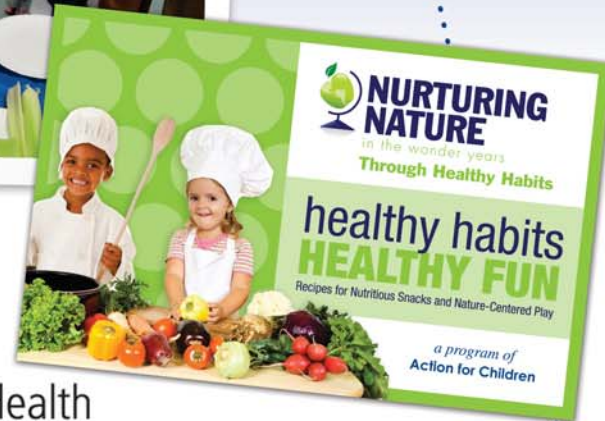
- Lettuce leaves
- 1 cup of cottage cheese
- Selection of favorite fresh fruits or vegetables (cherry tomatoes, alfalfa sprouts, peas, beans, green or red bell pepper slices)

### Directions:

Place a large lettuce leaf on a plate. Scoop cottage cheese on the lettuce leaf with an ice cream scoop or large spoon. Decorate the cottage cheese with vegetables to design a face, animal, or colorful design. Serve immediately or place in the refrigerator until serving time as a salad snack or light lunch.



Funded by:



## HEALTHY HABITS HEALTHY FUN

This booklet is one resource presented to parents whose providers have participated in Nurturing Nature through the Foods We Eat, co-facilitated by Action for Children and Columbus Public Health staff. Sixty-five families and providers attended a May event celebrating the importance of healthy diets and a healthy amount of activity to prevent childhood obesity.

## PUTTING THE CHILDREN FIRST

Putting the Children First, a seminar for parents who are going through the divorce or dissolution process, is based on Action for Children's Parents Who Parent Separately six-week classes. Putting the Children First was selected by the Franklin County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court in 2010 for their mandatory program for all divorcing parents of minor children.

During this two-hour seminar, Action for Children's parent educators provide information, tips, and resources that will help parents create a stable, loving environment in each home and keep their children from being caught in the middle of their parents' challenges and issues.

During the first two months of the program, our staff conducted six seminars that served 399 parents. We are funded by the Court, from May 2010 through April 2011, to provide 36 seminars serving approximately 2,400 parents.

**“My ex took this course not long ago and it changed everything. We get along so well now.”**

*Comment from a recent attendee*



**Programs and services to engage, educate and empower providers (child care/early learning settings)**

- Classes/Seminars
- Technical Assistance
- Accreditation/SUTQ



# CONNECTING FOR providers

The child's second teacher, the child care and early learning provider, is key to high-quality programs and child outcomes. Yet, even today there is much diversity in their experience and educational backgrounds. Professional development, technical support, coaching and mentoring help providers hone their skills and knowledge so that they can offer the highest quality settings for the children in their care. They need professional development opportunities that are accessible and affordable, and meet the individual where they are on the ladder of continuing education.

**CLASSES AND SEMINARS:** Professional development classes include topics such as Child Growth and Development; Family and Community Relations; Health, Safety and Nutrition; Child Observations and Assessments; and Learning Experiences and Environments, etc. During the past year, staff from Action for Children and our regional partners delivered 646 professional development classes for the seven-county region, which were attended by 8,815 early childhood professionals.

**STEP UP TO QUALITY:** Funded by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), Step Up to Quality (SUTQ) is Ohio's voluntary, quality rating system for ODJFS licensed child-care centers and large family child-care homes that care for six to twelve children. During the past year we provided technical assistance and specialized training to 7,787 center staff. By year's end, there were 153 star-rated programs in central Ohio (103, 1-star; 26, 2-star; 24, 3-star), representing 10 percent of the full- and part-day programs.

**CENTER ACCREDITATION:** The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) offers a voluntary national accreditation system to raise the quality of early childhood education and to help families identify high-quality child-care centers and preschools. Action for Children gives technical assistance to support centers in achieving accreditation. (NAEYC Accreditation in Franklin County is funded by United Way of Central Ohio Start Smart.) This year Action for Children staff worked with 41 centers in Franklin County. Fourteen centers achieved accreditation and one received a new SUTQ 2-star rating.



# shout out PROJECTS FOR providers

Healthy children need healthy diets and exercise. In fact, childhood obesity has been called a great public health epidemic. On the national level, First Lady Michelle Obama is pushing the “Let’s Move” initiative. In addition, the American Academy of Pediatrics has called for more opportunities for children to be outdoors, actually citing \*Richard Louv’s non-medical diagnosis of “Nature Deficit Disorder” as a condition that needs to receive our attention.

Since 2007, Action for Children has had a vibrant series of programs under the umbrella of Nurturing Nature in the Wonder Years. Developed through funding from the Ohio Environmental Agency’s Ohio Environmental Education Fund (OEEF) as a pilot, it is designed to help early childhood teachers in Franklin County integrate nature into the early learning environment. The program teaches early childhood professionals how to use their outdoor spaces to bring wonder and excitement to young children’s learning of science, math, social studies and language arts.

*Many of Ohio’s child care resource and referral agencies, like Action for Children, have offered programs encouraging directors and teachers to assess available natural spaces and have provided training for both structured and unstructured activities in nature.*

Source: Governor Strickland’s Report on Ohio’s Initiative to Reconnect Children with Nature, September 2010, under a strategy to encourage outdoor learning environments and natural play areas at schools, preschools and full-day child-care centers.

## NURTURING NATURE THROUGH THE FOODS WE EAT

Based on the successful Nurturing Nature in the Wonder Years, Action for Children received a two-year grant from OEEF in December 2009 to develop and implement Nurturing Nature through the Foods We Eat. This pilot program provides afterschool educators with standards-based professional development focused on environmental and agricultural education.

In the first six months of the program, 20 afterschool educators participated. One of the participants, a settlement house worker, designed a photographic newsletter for his constituency explaining, “It is my goal to pass on the love of the environment and expose our children to new and exciting ways to ‘nurture nature through the foods we eat,’ from our agency garden, to our pantry, back to our community.”

\*Richard Louv, *Last Child in the Woods, Preventing Nature Deficit Disorder*, 2005



Photo credit:  
RecSchool,  
Grove City Parks  
and Recreation







## NURTURING NATURE IN THE WONDER YEARS THROUGH HEALTHY HABITS

Action for Children received funding from Cardinal Health for Nurturing Nature in the Wonder Years through Healthy Habits. This project aims to attack the critical issue of childhood obesity in the early years by increasing access to healthy food, providing professional development and parent information around healthy food choices, improving physical fitness environments and policies within child-care centers. The program includes a 10-hour curriculum, family events, on-site technical assistance and a resource booklet to reinforce healthy eating habits. (See page 10 for an excerpt from Healthy Habits/Healthy Fun – Recipes for Nutritious Snacks and Nature-Centered Play.)

By year end, 32 early childhood educators, representing 13 diverse programs, participated in the 10-hour curriculum and 64 early childhood educators and families participated in family events organized to increase healthy habit knowledge.

**CARING COMMUNITIES: BIRTH TO 3 (CC: B-3)** was formed in 2008 through the partnership of Early Care and Learning (ECAL) and Action for Children with funding from American Electric Power Foundation.

Standard practice, in a child-care center setting, is for children to be moved from room to room with different teachers and children for as many as five times during their first three years. The essence of CC: B-3 is to offer infants and toddlers the consistency of skilled, nurturing care in small, mixed-age groups with one primary teacher, until they turn 3. The continuity of care is especially important for at-risk children and families – those often enduring less stable lives due to poverty, illness, job loss and frequent moves.

The inaugural participant partners are: Columbus Montessori, Kids Care Academy, Our Play Station and Learning Center, Starting Point, The Ohio State University Schoenbaum Family Center Weinland Park. Each center is urban, offers comprehensive programs for children from birth to age six, and serves many lower-income children. In becoming a partner, they agreed to structuring their infant/toddler programs to provide continuity of care in a family style setting.

Forty guests, including early education and licensing representatives from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, attended the August celebration at Action for Children. The program focused on presentations by each of the five participating centers, with Diane Bennett, Action for Children CEO and Linda Neugebauer, founder of ECAL, offering remarks.

# adventures in science

## FOR FAMILIES

The Adventures in Science booklet contains over 100 interactive activities that introduce young children (infancy to age 5) to the wonders of science – activities that encourage curiosity, exploration and a joy of learning through play. In support of Nurturing Nature (in the Wonder Years) through outdoor experiences, many of the activities in this booklet are designed to encourage exploring the “outside world.”

Call Action for Children if you would like to purchase this booklet for your family, or for a family in need through the ABCee Fund.

### INFANTS & TODDLERS | Activity 1

Obtain the following objects: gelatin, two small bowls of water – cold and warm, a teething ring that has come out of the refrigerator, a special blanket that has just been taken out of the dryer. Give your child one object at a time and talk to him about how each object feels – warm or cold. Let him play with that object until he loses interest. Then give him the next object and talk to him about how that object feels.

#### Watch your child progress

Ask your child to tell you how these objects and other objects feel.

Ask, “Does your blanket feel warm or cold?”

“Does the water feel wet or dry?”

#### Materials Needed

- Gelatin
- Bowls of water
- Teething ring
- Blanket



### INFANTS & TODDLERS | Activity 2

Many young children love to play simple games. Play peek-a-boo with your child. Hide behind the coffee table. Peek your head up over the coffee table and go back down. Then peek your head around the side of the coffee table. Use these two locations over and over again. Your child will soon begin to predict where you will be next. You will see her eyes moving to where you are going to be next, or she will actually move towards where you are going to be, after you play this a couple of times.

#### Book

*I Went Walking*, Sue Williams



## 3-5 YEAR-OLDS | Activity 1

Make a drum with your child. Glue eight pieces of parchment paper together. Make sure the bottom piece of parchment paper has glue around the edges and place it on an empty container such as a ceramic pot, tin can, empty oatmeal container, or something similar. Place a rubber band around the edges to hold it in place overnight. The next day ask your child if he'd like to decorate his new drum. Then ask him if he would like to play his new drum. Obtain a dowel rod or a small wooden spoon and let your child play his new drum. Ask him if he can play fast and then slow. When he's got that mastered, do the same for hard and soft.

### Materials Needed

Empty container  
Dowel rod or wooden spoon  
Parchment paper  
Rubber bands



## 3-5 YEAR-OLDS | Activity 2

"We're going to play a little game. You have to stick your hand in the box and by feeling the object you have to guess what it is." (Have a mixture of objects that your child is familiar with) Ask him how the texture feels – "rough? smooth? hard? soft?" (hairbrush, paper cup, sandpaper, spoon, smooth and rough toys, old CD, fabric scraps, blocks)

### Watch your child progress

Extend this one step further. Put a blindfold on your child. (Or, just have him close his eyes.) Take the objects (if they were edible) from the box and have him smell or taste the object. Ask him how it smells or tastes – "sweet? sour? salty?" As he is doing this have him try and guess what the item is.

### Materials Needed

Objects for the game



AEP provided funding and guidance for the design and development of Adventures in Science for Families, which, in 2009, were distributed to 1,200 low-income families in central Ohio. Many of the recipients were families with children in the Franklin County Early Learning Consortium centers (our partners in ELI – the program eliminated in Ohio's 2010-2011 budget).

This year AEP provided funding for fulfillment and distribution of Adventures in Science kits to low-income, high risk families in the company's footprint communities in Ohio and West Virginia.



Programs and services to engage, inform and educate the community (public and private agencies and organizations)

- Advocacy
- Research/Planning
- Web and Social Media



# CONNECTING FOR THE community

Child care and early education programs are a vital part of the community's infrastructure; supporting the child care needs of working families, as well as those seeking employment or furthering their education, and providing early learning experiences that lay the foundation for children's success in school and life. Networking, collaborating and capacity-building help meet community needs and offer opportunity for innovative solutions. Advocacy, raising awareness and outreach focused on parents, families and child care and early education professionals become even more critical in the face of the economic downturn and budget cutbacks, e.g. the elimination of ELI – Ohio's Early Learning Initiative.

## ADVOCACY

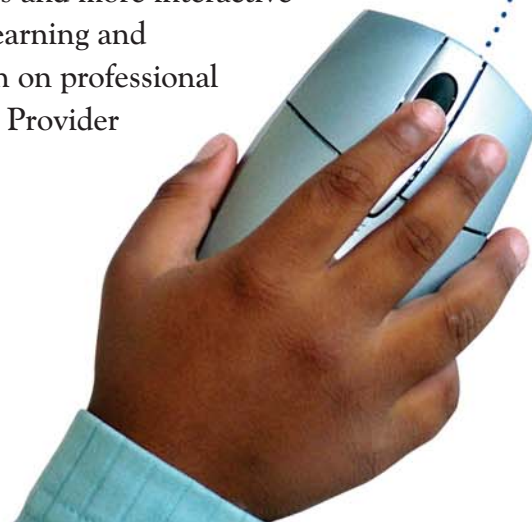
Action for Children provides resources to the public and private sectors to advocate for early education and child-care finance reform, quality early learning environments, licensing for family home child-care providers (Type B homes serving six or fewer children) and worthy wages.

This year the child care and early learning community faced the devastating loss of ELI, but comprehensive and coordinated efforts helped us emerge with the knowledge that we valiantly fought a very hard battle. We will continue working with organizations like Groundwork, Voices for Children, Ohio Professional Development Network and the Ohio Association for Child Care Providers (OACCP) to keep young children in the forefront of public policy.

## WEBSITE

In keeping up with the changing times and more expanded use of the web, this past year Action for Children launched a new website design for easier access and more interactive capabilities. The menu includes choosing child care, your child's learning and development, positive parenting and all of the provider information on professional development with the link to the professional registry, OPN (Ohio Provider Network). There is also timely information for businesses and community planners as well as legislative updates.

Social networking has become a new medium of choice for many using our services. Therefore, as of this year, you can also find us on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.



# shout out PROJECTS FOR THE community

## JENNINGS FORUM

During the year, through funding from the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation, Action for Children, in collaboration with Columbus State University, Capital University, Columbus City Schools, and CDC Head Start, hosted three community forums to support the creation of professional networks and create a network to enhance resource sharing for organizations and staff working with early childhood professionals.

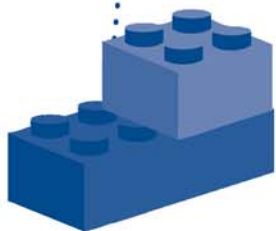
There were 70 participants at each of the forums. They represented a vast array of organizations working with early childhood professionals, including faculty from two- and four-year institutions, public school staff, Ohio Department of Education, students, community training organizations, and representatives from the regional Education Service Center. We will continue working to pursue online opportunities for networking early care and education educators.

## PARENT EDUCATION NETWORK

“Individually we cannot be everything to everyone, collectively we can meet the needs of most, and creatively we can strengthen and support our collective mission.” This was the spirit in which Action for Children convened a one-day Parent Education Summit to explore challenges the parent education field is currently facing.

The summit provided a networking opportunity and an open forum for exploring ideas and solutions to the problems faced by all of the organizations; such as budget cuts, family stress, and the lack of knowledge parents have about services available to them and where to obtain services. Along with Action for Children, organizations participating included ACTION OHIO Coalition for Battered Women, Catholic Social Services, COSI, Directions for Youth and Family Services, The Elizabeth Blackwell Center, Gladden Community House, Jewish Family Services, The Neighborhood House Inc., Practical Solutions Parent Coaching LLC, and St. Stephens Community House.

Although unfunded, out of the summit grew the Parent Education Network, which developed goals that included developing a directory of services to increase awareness; sharing resources and services like technology and transportation; and addressing gaps in services and clients.





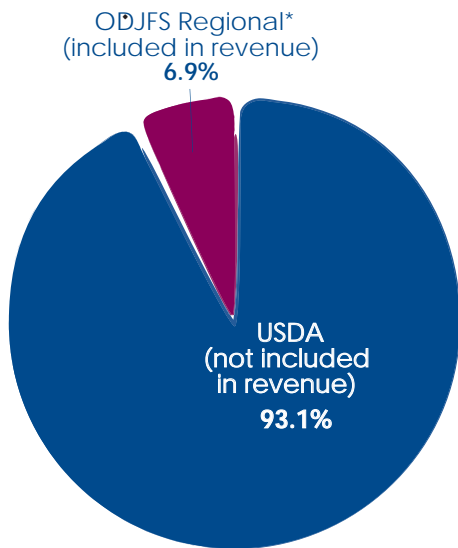
# PROGRAM funding



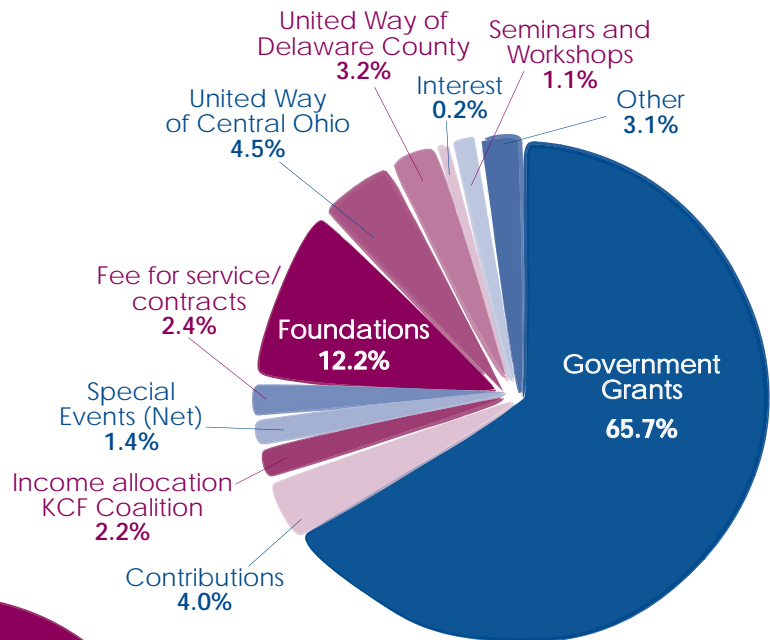
## 2010 BUDGET REVIEW

All funding (except 9.5 percent administrative costs) goes directly to programs and services, which during this year reached nearly 9,000 parents, 11,000 providers affecting the lives of more than 40,000 children.

The June 30, 2010 financial statements were audited by Saltz, Shamis & Goldfarb, Certified Public Accountants, who expressed an unqualified opinion on them. The audited financial statements are available on request by calling Action for Children, 614/224-0222, ext. 138.



Pass-Through Monies  
\$1,000,475



Program Revenue  
\$3,543,518



Program Expenses  
\$3,097,914

\*ODJFS Regional "passed through" to Fairfield, Licking, Madison, Pickaway and Union counties

NOTE: Operations for Action for Children's Delaware office are included in program revenue and expense

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# HOW TO contribute

33  
Your dollars have a far-reaching effect on today's workforce – parents and providers – and the workforce of tomorrow – the children.

## WHY GIVE?

At Action for Children, we address the quality care and early education needs of children by empowering and educating their two most important first teachers, parents and child-care providers. Our programs and services give these first teachers the skills and knowledge they need to create healthy, safe and nurturing learning environments – setting the foundation for a child's success in school and life.

An investment in early learning provides a great economic return. Research shows that for every \$1.00 invested in early learning, our community stands to save \$7.00 in costs associated with teen pregnancy, truancy and crime.

Our major programs and services include:

34  
**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT** | Action for Children provides coaching, technical assistance, classes and mentoring to 10,691 child care providers in our community. We offered nearly 650 courses so that professionals can attain national credentials, continuing education credits, achieve national accreditation or Step Up to Quality ratings.

**PARENT SERVICES** | We offer parent workshops and classes through The Art of Positive Parenting (TAPP).

**CHILD-CARE SEARCH** | We assist parents in finding child care, early learning classes, preschool and after school programs for their children.

**ADVOCACY** | We advocate for quality child care and early education for all central Ohio children.

## HOW TO GIVE?

- Through our website [www.actionforchildren.org](http://www.actionforchildren.org)
- During our Annual Campaign
- Contribute in memory or in honor of someone special
- Purchase an early learning kit for a needy family through the ABCee Fund
- Donate appreciated stock
- Provide in-kind services
- Make Action for Children part of your planned giving
- Become a member of the Seven Generations Circle of Women
- Contribute to Cee Cullman's Action for Children Seven Generation Endowment Fund (through the Columbus Foundation) to help ensure the future growth of the agency's programs and services
- Support special events





# THANK YOU contributors

JULY 1, 2009 – JUNE 30, 2010

Every contribution to Action for Children is important. Some of the contributions are in the form of grants, others as a result of the ABCee Fund, Seven Generations Circle of Women, the annual campaign, and gifts made in honor and in memory of someone special. We are acknowledging all of these gifts in alphabetical order, rather than by giving levels. We deeply appreciate your financial contributions to Action for Children. They help us offer our programs and services to parents, providers and the general community. They also let us provide new and innovative kinds of programming. Thanks to each and every one of you for your support that allows us to take action in behalf of more than 40,000 children in central Ohio.

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# action for children

## OUR CORE VALUES

### 1) CHILDREN

- Children are the most valuable resource in our community.

### 2) INTER-DEPENDENCE

- Successful growth and development of our children depend on every part of the community.

### 3) QUALITY

- Child care and early childhood education are inseparable.
- Growth, learning and development begin “Right From the Start.”
- Child-care professionals are at the heart of quality care and must be accorded the highest stature for their contributions.
- A significant way to assure quality is to help parents make informed choices.
- Quality care and education provide rich experiences that meet children’s developmental needs.

### 4) INCLUSIVENESS

- All families are important and deserve support and respect.
- We support and respect the richness that diversity brings to our families and communities.
- We support care that meets the needs of diverse segments of our community.



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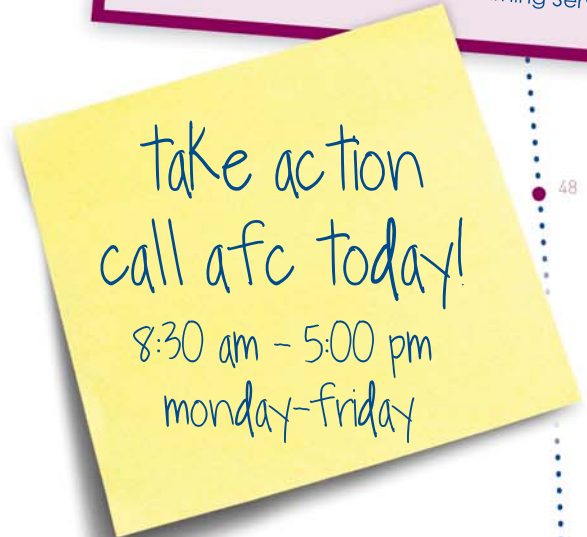
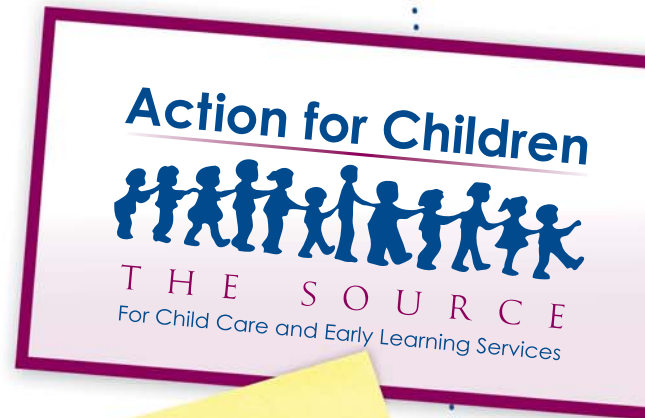
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For child-care resource and referral specialists in Fairfield, Licking,  
or Pickaway counties, our regional partners, please call:

Fairfield County  
Child Carefinder, 740-652-7624

Licking County  
Child Care Connections at Pathways,  
740-345-6166, ext. 209

Pickaway County  
Child Care Choices, 740-477-1602



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