

Community Connections

Home-Based Child Care
and
State-Funded Preschool



illinois
action for
children

47% of CCAP families
choose home-based child care

67% of low-income families
work unusual hours

Community Connections Preschool

- Transport 3 & 4 year olds to part-day PreK classrooms
- Teachers visit home-based providers to extend curriculum
- Provider has time to focus on infants & toddlers
- Parents & providers meet at center monthly

Funding

- Child Care Assistance Program (to home-based providers)
- State PreK funds (to Illinois Action for Children @ \$4,000/child/year)

Policies & Partnerships

- **Child focused.** Child Care Assistance Program recognizes part-day PreK or Head Start as part of the child care day
- **Family friendly.** PreK program supports this pilot and its evaluation
- **Fair to providers.** 3-way local partnership is essential (provider, center or school, funder/intermediary)

Implementation Evaluation: Strengths

- Access to State PreK
- Quality & perceived child outcomes
- Well regarded

Implementation Challenges

- Teacher/provider visits
 - Model specificity
 - extending preschool curriculum
 - infant/toddler programming
 - Scheduling & cancellation procedures
- Transportation
- Monthly parent/provider meetings at center

Resources

- View the detailed program description online at www.actforchildren.org > Early Learning Programs > Community Connections Preschool or click [here](#).
- View the evaluation report online at www.actforchildren.org > Early Learning Programs > Community Connections Preschool or click [here](#).

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