Community Connections

Home-Based Child Care and State-Funded Preschool
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.

For more information, contact Tom Layman, Illinois Action for Children, at 773.769.8015 or tom.layman@actforchildren.org.