

# Pennsylvania's Early Learning Initiatives

Pennsylvania's Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) and its partners throughout the commonwealth offer many early learning initiatives that can help your child reach his/her promise. For more information on how to access these programs visit [www.papromiseforchildren.com](http://www.papromiseforchildren.com).



**Child Care Works** subsidized child care program provides financial help to pay for child care for families who meet work and income requirements. To be eligible, families must earn 200% of the federal poverty level or less, such as a family of four earning \$42,400 a year, and meet certain work requirements. Parents can apply online or at their Child Care Information Services (CCIS) agency. CCIS agencies also offer parents a wealth of resources on how to find the best care for their child.

**Keystone STARS** promotes quality in child care and Head Start programs. Programs that participate in Keystone STARS earn a STAR 1 to STAR 4 level based on quality standards. When looking for child care, ask if they participate in Keystone STARS.

**Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts** provides high quality pre-kindergarten opportunities to three and four year olds at no cost to families. Children from age three until the entry age for kindergarten are eligible to apply. PA Pre-K Counts is targeted to children at risk of school failure, either because of income, language (English is not the first language), or special needs issues.

**Early Intervention** provides children from birth to age five with disabilities/developmental delays with services to help promote their development so they are successful in any early education setting. Services may include parent education, developmental therapies and other support services. There is no cost to families.

**Head Start** provides free comprehensive early learning services to children & families most at risk of academic failure. Families earning 130% of the federal poverty level or less are eligible to apply.

**Nurse-Family Partnership** provides registered nurses who work with expectant mothers to ensure a healthy pregnancy, to engage in activities with the baby that will promote healthy development, and to make plans for the future. Pregnant women who are low-income, first time mothers and enroll by the 28<sup>th</sup> week of pregnancy are eligible. There is no cost to families.

**Parent Child Home Program** provides a home visitor to help parents learn how to read and play with their children in a way that promotes early learning and builds a positive parent-child bond. Families of at-risk children who enroll their children between 18 months and two years of age and participate for two years are eligible. There is no cost to families.