

helping children soar



BOONE COUNTY
PROJECT
LAUNCH

Our Mission

“to develop an accessible, seamless early childhood system for all children, birth-8, and families in Boone County. By harnessing resources and coordinating and integrating evidence-based practices focused on awareness and prevention, we aim to support a continuum of services that will empower all adults to be responsible for young children’s health and development.”

Our Vision

“to establish a nurturing community that enhances the health and wellness of children and families, allowing them to reach their full potential.



Project LAUNCH’s Six Prevention and Promotion Strategies

Our strategies will be met by implementing or enhancing evidence-based programs in the following domains.

- ◇ Developmental screening and assessments
- ◇ Integration of behavioral health into primary care settings
- ◇ Mental health consultation
- ◇ Home visiting
- ◇ Family strengthening and parent skills training
- ◇ Substance abuse prevention

Boone County Project LAUNCH Team

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Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children’s Health

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WHO ARE WE?

In 2010, Boone County was chosen to be one of 24 nationwide SAMHSA Project LAUNCH sites that are pioneering new ways to promote young children's wellness.

The focus: children from birth through age 8. **The goal:** for all children to reach physical, social, emotional, behavioral, and cognitive milestones. Healthy growth in each of these areas prepares children to thrive in school and beyond.

Boone County Project LAUNCH is a five year grant aimed at promoting social emotional wellness in young children by supporting community partners such as educators, physicians, parents and caregivers.



For more information about Boone County Project LAUNCH please visit our website at

www.isyourchildhappy.org

WHAT WE DO...

Community Partnership

A cornerstone of Project LAUNCH is the forging of relationships across providers and agencies that serve children and families in ways that foster coordination and collaboration. The Boone County Project LAUNCH Wellness Council brings together parents and professionals dedicated to improving outcomes for young children. The Council's primary function is to develop a shared vision and create a plan for making that vision a reality. Council activities include identifying gaps and barriers in services and setting priorities for the implementation of LAUNCH strategies.

Workforce Development

Education, primary care, and mental health professionals report that their educational training has not adequately prepared them for the challenges presented by the children in their care. Boone County Project LAUNCH addresses this issue in a number of ways:

1. Inviting national experts to present evidence-based training programs focused on healthy development
2. Partnering with local experts to provide ongoing coaching and support to County caregivers, including home-based child care providers
3. Raising social-emotional health awareness through the Wellness Council and other community groups
4. Imbedding Project LAUNCH staff in child care and primary care settings to provide peer-peer consultation on screening, assessment, and early intervention strategies.

Prevention/Early Intervention

Boone County Project LAUNCH seeks to ensure that *all* children are able to reach developmental milestones in order to succeed in school and in life. For Project LAUNCH to positively affect children's social-emotional wellness, resources and activities must be focused not only on children but also on their families and on the environments that most directly impact them. To this end we strive to:

- ◆ Promote community-wide developmental and social-emotional screening
- ◆ Ensure that all providers are well-informed regarding appropriate referrals resources throughout the County
- ◆ Develop public awareness campaign that promotes understanding of the needs of young children

Family Strengthening

Promoting healthy environments for children through family support and strengthening is a key component of Boone County Project LAUNCH. One example of this is parent/caregiver skills training through evidence-based programs which build upon existing family strengths and take into account culture, language and values. To better inform our parent education efforts, we are conducting focus groups throughout the County to identify needs, concerns, experiences, etc... Another example is supporting families by enhancing and expanding established home visiting programs.



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