



Early Childhood Intervention at the Center for the Homeless



Thank You

*for supporting the smallest hearts at the
Center for the Homeless! With the help of donors
like you, the Center is changing the future of
children who need it most!*



We Care for Children and Empower Their Parents

The Early Childhood Intervention Center (ECIC) at the Center for the Homeless focuses on children's holistic developmental growth, with a strong emphasis on areas of concern or delay. Licensed by the State of Indiana, we are committed to:

- providing a high quality educational environment for children, ages 6 weeks to 6 years, that supports each child's growth and development
- partnering with parents to "equip, encourage, and empower" as their child's first and most important teacher, and therefore facilitating two-generation impact.



"As teachers, we are partners — not only with the parents, but with the children. We get to be an advocate for them. We get to be their voice when they don't have a voice."

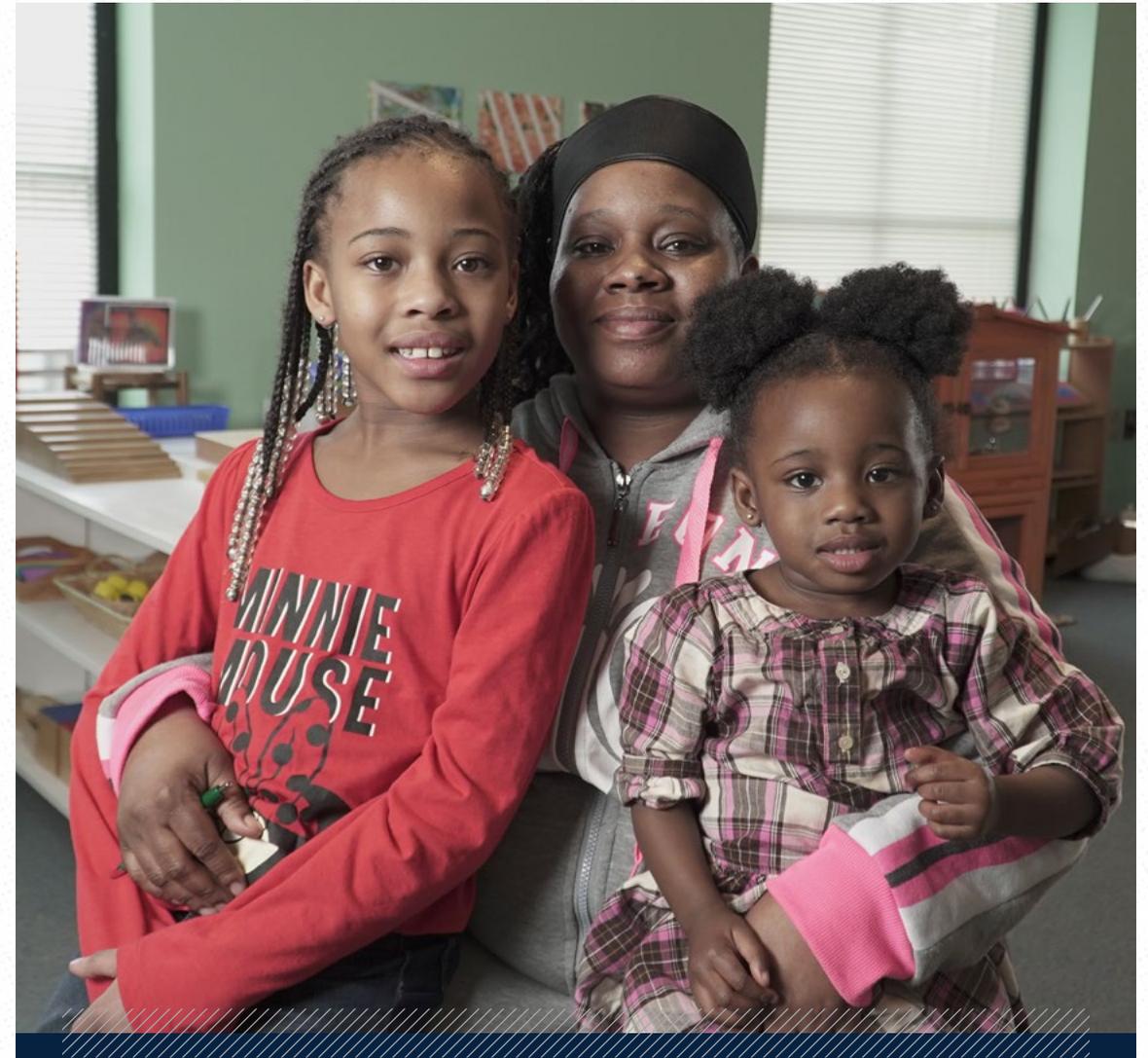
CRYSTAL
PEDS TODDLER TEACHER

Identifying the Needs

Early childhood education can have a significant positive impact on their development and future academic achievement, especially among children experiencing homelessness. Yet it is homeless families who face alarmingly unique barriers to enrolling in early childhood education and child care—even though they are the ones who would benefit most.

Research and experience has informed us that the greatest needs of children participating in this program are:

- consistent care in order to meet basic needs and form healthy attachments
- intentional developmental support in order to meet critical growth milestones
- emotional support to develop resilience in the midst of distressing poverty and homelessness.



"My daughter, Gavity, she's two. When she started she couldn't even talk. Now she knows sign language, and can talk!"

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Addressing the Challenges

At the Center for the Homeless, the Early Childhood Intervention Center is made up of three elements that serve very young children experiencing homelessness in our community:

- **PEDS** (Play, Exploration, and Developmental Support)
Our goal in PEDS is to foster an educational environment that provides the best opportunities for young children to learn and grow. Children ages 6 weeks to 3 years participate in a hands-on, play-based learning environment. Each PEDS teacher is a primary caregiver to a small group of children, where a strong, trusting relationship is established.
- **Montessori Learning**
Our Montessori classroom is a satellite campus of The Montessori Academy at Edison Lakes, and is for children 3 years through 6. They create an environment that cultivates the child's intellect and love of learning, instills responsibility, fosters respect, and inspires care for the community.
- **Parent Cafes**
We recognize that parents are an essential part of a child's life. Our goal is to work alongside parents with young children to **equip, encourage, and empower** them to become the best parents possible to their children. Parent Cafe sessions focus on a variety of topics related to child development, with a particular emphasis on trauma and trauma-informed parenting.



Caring for the Least Among Us

In Indiana alone, 1 in 29 children under the age of six experiences homelessness. Without appropriate intervention, these children are likely to enter kindergarten insufficiently prepared to learn and succeed.

At the Center for the Homeless, all Early Childhood Intervention Center staff are trained and credentialed in either High Scope or the Montessori method.

This program is also a phenomenal example of our desire and attempt to destabilize the "principle of less eligibility." That is, we believe that people from poverty should have every opportunity to not only receive services that are better than what they might normally be able to access, but that those services are equivalent to or even better than those which middle and upper class citizens might access.







Center for
the Homeless