

# The Early Learning Center



## Babies born in the Florence Crittenton Home, early 20th century

Lack of child care, especially for the youngest infants, is one of the primary reasons that fewer than half of pregnant teenage girls graduate from high school. Florence Crittenton Services' Early Learning Center, a licensed, Qualistar-rated on-site early childhood education facility for the babies of teen mothers who attend the Florence Crittenton School, makes it easier to stay in school.

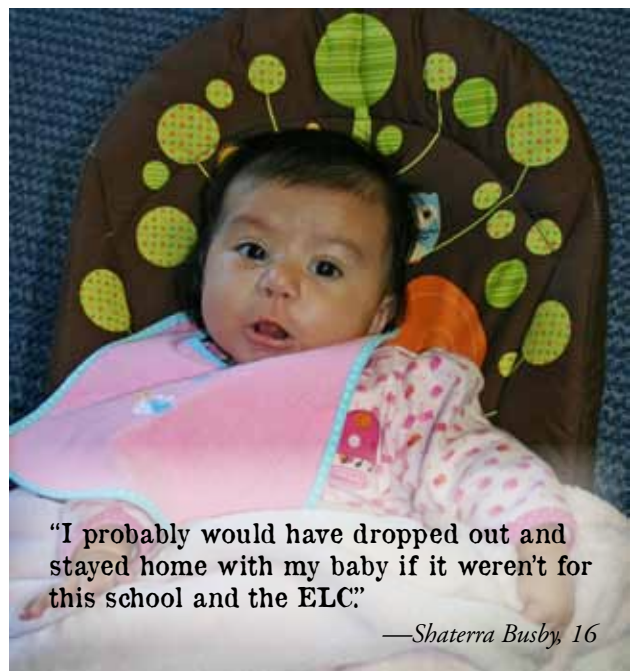
## ELC Facts & Stats

- Sixty-six infants and toddlers at a time are enrolled in the ELC, and about 100 were served during the 2010 fiscal year.
- 97% of infants and toddlers enrolled for at least four months met or exceeded developmental milestones.
- All children receive basic immunizations and regular health checks.

These babies are at high risk for a myriad of developmental and societal problems. Strong parenting, health and developmental support in the Early Learning Center gives these little ones the best possible start in life. Professionals teach young moms how to care for their children and promote their health and development.



Student Shatterra Busby learns how to use books to stimulate son Lyndell's development in a Lab Class in the Early Learning Center



"I probably would have dropped out and stayed home with my baby if it weren't for this school and the ELC"

—Shatterra Busby, 16

## Quality Child Care Matters

- The first five years of a child's life are crucial for social, emotional, physical and cognitive development. Failure to invest time and resources during children's early years has long-term implications for health care, social support and education systems.
- The Early Learning Center helps create healthy children and families, saving them from lives of poverty, under-employment and dependence on social-welfare programs, and creating cycles of success!
- Because early language and literacy development contributes to a child's success throughout life, the ELC provides an enriched developmental curriculum that supports each child's cognitive, social and emotional growth, as well as nurturing language and motor skills.
- The Early Learning Center acts as a learning lab for teen moms, who receive hands-on training in its classrooms and use learned parenting skills at home.
- Children are assessed on an ongoing basis for physical health and developmental skills, and receive all vaccinations.



**“Giving children that quality learning from the very beginning is the first step in creating that cycle of success.”**

*—Marianne Giarratano, ELC Senior Director*

## ELC Expansion

**A cacophony of hammering and drilling dominated Florence Crittenton Services offices in July and August 2009 as workers labored to transform the huge staff lunchroom into a new Early Learning Center classroom in time for the first day of school. The new “Daisies” classroom holds ten babies, increasing the ELC’s capacity while earning the highest rating from Qualistar!**

