

Assessing Our Children's Quality of Life



We are pleased to present the first edition of *Beyond ABC: Growing Up in Collin County*, a comprehensive report on the quality of life for children in our community. More than 179,000 children call Collin County home and we are blessed with the birth of about 28 babies every day.

Beyond ABC: Growing Up in Collin County is a tool to better understand children's needs through objective data and to encourage active involvement in making our community an even better place for children. The report presents 12 years of data on 61 indicators of child health, education, safety and economic security.

The data show that Collin County residents clearly demonstrate a strong commitment to an enriching environment for children and youth. Crime rates are significantly lower than the nation at large. There are extensive opportunities for constructive activities for children and youth. High-quality education is widely available and parents strongly support the schools. Yet the report identifies significant problems that threaten the well-being of Collin County children and makes recommendations for action.

We are grateful to the members of the *Beyond ABC: Growing Up in Collin County* Advisory Board who devoted significant effort to developing this report. The Advisory Board includes city and county staff, educators, civic group members, non-profit agency leaders and healthcare providers.

We hope this report helps you better understand our children's needs, as together we seek to continue to make Collin County a premier community for children to grow, to thrive and to fulfill their potential. The full report with data and information on each of the 61 indicators is available at www.childrens.com/BeyondABC.

Thank you for working with us to actively address issues that impact our children.



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Beyond ABC:

Growing Up in Collin County

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