

Iowa Community Empowerment Newsletter

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It's The Children's Turn

The 12th Annual Iowa Early Care, Health and Education Congress was held in November. This year's theme, *Building Successful Communities Equals Successful Children* carried with it a great conference. Continuing the economic dialogue that began last year, this year's conference focused on the community-level commitment to young children.

Leaders were excited to share about the importance early childhood plays in our communities and our economy. Keynote addresses were provided by Governor Tom Vilsack, Lt. Governor Sally Pederson, Dr. Bob Koob, Dr. Lori Dorfman and J. Barry Griswell. Although each had different messages, all speakers challenged and encouraged the audience with the message that this is the year for Iowa's youngest children.



Barry Griswell, Chairman, President and CEO of the Principal Financial Group® shared during his remarks that we have to bring government, human service agencies, legislators, parents and business together. "Our kids are our future, create a better world for all tomorrow."

The Governor promised the early childhood professionals that his budget proposal to the Legislature this year will include a considerable increase in money for early childhood programs. Governor Vilsack also said that his Condition of the State address in January will focus on only two things: strengthening early education and improving Iowa's economy. The two, he said, go hand-in-hand.



Disclaimer:

Many articles in this newsletter are submitted by various entities. The views and opinions contained within may or may not be those of Iowa Community Empowerment.

On February 24, 2005, make plans now to attend the 2005 Day on the Hill activities to continue the discussion of the importance and economic impact of investing in early childhood development with our legislators. You can be a part of an exhibit booth or come to the Capitol and meet with legislators. For more information, go to <http://www.iowachildnetwork.org/>

Administrative Update – October 2004 - November 2004

Upcoming Events

2005 Calendar at a Glance

Iowa Empowerment Board

January 7, 2005

Blank Park Zoo, Des Moines

March 4, 2005

Blank Park Zoo, Des Moines

May 6, 2005

Lee/Van Buren Empowerment Area

July 8, 2005

Blank Park Zoo, Des Moines

September 9, 2005

Pottawattamie Co. Empowerment Area

November 2005

Meeting TBD

Empowerment Coordinators/Contacts Meetings

February 16, 2005

Walnut Hills United Methodist Church
Urbandale

May 18, 2005

Walnut Hills United Methodist Church
Urbandale

September 14, 2005

Heartland AEA, Johnston

December 14, 2005

Heartland AEA, Johnston

Early Childhood Iowa Core Stakeholders

February 15, 2005

West DM Learning Resource Center
May 17, 2005

West DM Learning Resource Center
September 13, 2005

Heartland AEA, Johnston

December 13, 2005

Heartland AEA, Johnston

Footsteps to Iowa's Future - Day on the Hill

February 24, 2005

State Capitol Rotunda

Iowa Early Care Health & Education Congress

November 8 & 9, 2005

Scheman Center, Ames

Iowa Empowerment Board and Related Activities

The Iowa Empowerment Board did not formally meet in November, opting instead to attend the Early Care, Health & Education Congress in Ames. There were twelve state board members who were present for all or part of the event. Many shared that they appreciated the opportunity to network with the professionals in the field and find out what's happening in local communities, as well as statewide.

To those who were able to attend, thank you for your support of the Congress.

Early Care, Health and Education System Building Activities

- Results Accountability Workgroup – October 5 & November 29
- Resources & Funding Workgroup – October 12
- ABCDII Grant – October 15
- ECHE Systems Implementation Grant Meetings – Oct 18, 26, Nov 2, 9, 18, 23, 30
- Public Engagement Workgroup – October 19 & November 15
- ECHE Congress Planning – October 21
- Linn County systems building visit – October 20
- State Agency Liaison Team – October 22
- Quality Services & Programs Workgroup – November 2
- Business Leaders Meeting, Pottawattamie County – November 12
- Iowa Learns Council Forum – November 16
- Early Care, Health & Education Congress – November 16 & 17

Site Visits/Technical Assistance Activities

- Conference Call, Linn County – October 1
- CEA Board Training, Des Moines – October 19
- Local Empowerment Board meeting, Dubuque – November 4
- Local Empowerment Board meeting, Jasper – November 4
- Data Workgroup – November 16
- Local Empowerment Board meeting, Clinton/Jackson – November 29
- Local Empowerment Board meeting, Jefferson/Keokuk – November 30

December Contacts/Coordinators Meeting ICN Locations:

Des Moines DHS Office – City View

Cedar Rapids DHS Office

Waterloo DHS Office

Council Bluffs DHS Office

Sioux City DHS Office

Ottumwa Indian Hills Community College

Mason City Newman Catholic High

School

Fort Dodge Public Library

Administrative Update – Continued October 2004 – November 2004

ECHE System Building Updates

Linkages/Outreach Activities

- Conference Call, Tom Hobson of Rockwell Collins – October 1
- MCHB Grantees Conference – October 3-6
- PJ/FaDDS – October 7
- Quality Rating System Meetings – October 7 & November 2
- MCH/CHSC Conference, Cedar Rapids – October 12 & 13
- State Child Care Advisory Council – October 14
- Head Start Collaboration Advisory – October 15
- Early Learning Standards – October 12
- TEACH Advisory Group – October 19
- PITC Advisory Group – October 21 & November 30
- Touching the Lives of Children with Disabilities Conference – October 21
- IDPH Executive Team visits – October 27 – 29, November 3, 4
- Performance Measures Group – October 28
- SCRIPT – October 29
- HOPES training – November 8-12
- Iowa Youth Development Steering Committee – November 24

Update on the Iowa Department of Public Health's Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Building Grant

Language was released this September for the HRSA grant that funds the current early care, health, and education systems building work. The purpose of the State Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant (ECCS) is to help States plan, develop, and ultimately implement collaborations and partnerships to support families and communities raise children that are healthy and ready to learn at school entry. The ECCS initiative is a two-stage process consisting of planning and implementation grants. Iowa entered the first stage in 2002 and currently are in our second year of planning for implementation. Iowa must be able to demonstrate that the components required for the completion of the planning process are in place to apply for the three-year implementation grant. In addition to applying for the three-year implementation grant, Iowa will apply for an Implementation Enhancement award of one year's duration to focus on developing a particular area of the systems building project. The grant guidance will be available December 1, 2004 and applications are due February 1, 2005.

Update on the work of Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders

The Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders are working with Iowa Interactive to create a website for the group and the comprehensive early care, health, and education system. This will serve as a great resource as commitments and contributions from both the public and private sector will be sought to fund the system.

The component groups continue to meet and have exciting things to report: The Funding and Resource met with leaders from the Urban Education Network and the Child and Family Policy Center to discuss the "down payment" approach to funding a comprehensive early care, health, and education system in Iowa. The next step is to convene private sector leaders and seek their commitment. Quality Services and Programs Group is planning to bring together Family Support leaders from across the state in December to develop a common definition of Family Support and discuss networking between organizations. Public Engagement group has been working hard to create a unified message for the upcoming legislative session. They are also in the process to give Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders an "identity" and plan to launch a public awareness campaign. Results Accountability continues to look for data to measure the goals and strategies that have been set.

Other Events and Activities

**Investing in Iowa's Youth,
Investing in Iowa's Future: The
Third Annual Disproportionate
Minority Contact Conference**
December 1–3
Des Moines

**2005 National Smart Start
Conference**
January 23-27, 2005
Greensboro, North Carolina

**Connecting the Pieces for Iowa's
Children
Early Childhood Symposium**
April 28 & 29, 2005
Amana Holiday Inn

Governor & First Lady Community Forums: Iowa Learns Council Recommendations

December 1

Mississippi Bend AEA
729 21st Street, Bettendorf
(hosted by Scott County
Empowerment and Decat)

December 7

Grand River Center
500 Bell Street, Dubuque, IA

December 8

Sioux Center Community
School District
TePaske Theatre High School
550 9th Street, NE
Sioux Center, IA

December 9

Fremont-Mills Community
School District
High School Multi-Purpose
Room
27 Jackson Blvd.
Tabor, IA

Is your Empowerment Board following the Open Meetings Law?

For guidance, visit
Iowa State Association of
Counties (ISAC) at
www.iowacounties.org

"Sunshine Advisory" -
Attorney General
Department's web site:
www.iowaAttorneyGeneral.org

Iowa Freedom of Information
Council
<http://www.drake.edu/journalism/foi/foi2.html>

Forum: Early childcare good business

Excerpts from The Daily Nonpareil, November 13, 2004, Council Bluffs, Iowa

The process of building a statewide system to provide quality early childhood childcare took a small step Friday with a gathering of business leaders, educators and elected officials, sponsored by the Pottawattamie County Community Empowerment Board and the Council Bluffs Chamber of Commerce.

The message, delivered in part by Rob Grunewald of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, was that investing dollars in the early development of children is good business.

Grunewald and Art Rolnick of the Federal Reserve have been promoting early childhood development as an economic issue for several years now. Their belief came out of studying different concepts of what can make a state's economy grow.

"Investments in human capital, investments in education, lead to economic growth," Grunewald said. Citing studies in Michigan, Chicago, North Carolina and California, some tracking the subjects for 27 years, Grunewald pointed out that early childhood education programs had a positive impact on increasing the likelihood of participants going to college, decreasing the probability of being involved in criminal activity, increasing income and home ownership and reducing welfare payments.

The return on investment was at least \$7 to each \$1 spent on early childhood education.

The importance of the issue is being supported by an increasing number of business communities, Grunewald said, including Minnesota where he lives. Businesses are starting to look at developing a future workforce in a world that has fewer boundaries. For now, he knows his job is primarily to market the value of early childhood education and sell it to the business community.

It also must not become a partisan issue," Grunewald said. "This is an issue that can go across party lines. The difficult question for most states is funding."

To view the article in its entirety, contact the Office of Empowerment for an electronic copy, or click here:

http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=13356378&BRD=2554&PAG=461&dept_id=



Valuable **GEM\$** Uncovered!



New Website Can Direct Communities to Grant Dollars

Cities and counties are often seeking ways to supplement funding for projects in their community. Projects might range from a new shelter house in the park to improvements to the water plant or funding for a community center. Many times local budgets are stretched and communities are looking for that last piece of funding to help them get their project completed.

Although there are many places to look for grant information, there is now a new resource specific to Iowa. The Iowa Grants Enterprise Management Systems (GEM\$), housed in the Iowa Department of Management, was created in 2003 in part to help bring grant funds into the state of Iowa. One of the outgrowths of the GEM\$ office was the creation of a comprehensive web site. The web site lists information about grants and grant seeking as well as links to web sites with grant information.

Grant seekers can find links to grants offered by various Iowa state government agencies such as the Iowa Department of Transportation, the Iowa Department of Economic Development and many others. Additionally, there are links to information about federal funding and a link to the federal web site, www.Grants.gov, which is a centralized, online grants process for over 900 grant programs from the 26 federal grant-making agencies. Another potential resource, private funding, is highlighted on the web site with information about foundations, corporations and trusts.

The GEM\$ web site also lists information about grant writing workshops and other training opportunities being offered in Iowa. Tips are offered to explain the grant process and a link to a glossary of common grant terms is provided. There is also a place for visitors to the web site to provide feedback and suggestions.

Be sure to check out www.iagem.gov the next time the city is seeking grant dollars!

Documenting the Value of Preschool Education

In the 1960s the *High/Scope Foundation* began tracking two groups of low-income, mainly African American, young children. One group received high quality early care and learning from a curriculum supervised by the *Foundation*. Another mirror group of young children from the same neighborhood in Ypsilanti received no such program in their younger years before entering public school. This type of study is scientific because it contrasts the outcomes of individuals randomly assigned to either a treatment group that attended the early childhood program or a no-treatment group that did not attend the program.

The *Foundation* has now tracked the lives of both sets of children up until age 40. Most of the findings fall into three important areas:

- * **Education.** Children receiving quality early learning before entering school had higher achievement test scores, less need of treatment for mental impairment, a stronger commitment to education, a higher rate of graduation from high school, and a lower rate of high school dropout.
- * **Crime.** Children receiving high quality care were less likely to be involved in crime in their youth and throughout their entire adulthood.
- * **Economy.** Children receiving high quality care are averaging thousands of dollars more in annual earnings than their counterparts who did not receive early care in their younger years.

To view the complete results of the *High/Scope* research through age 40, go to the *High/Scope* web site at: www.highscope.org

Iowa's Early Childhood Vision: Every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful.



New Regular Feature



Dental Services Available for Head Start Children

Iowa's recommended Early & Periodic Screening, Diagnosis & Treatment (EPSDT) Periodicity Schedule for oral health includes oral assessment at all medical screen appointments and a referral to a dentist by the age of 12 months, a year later at 24 months, and then every six months thereafter.

Dental services available for children through Medicaid include the following:

- **Care Coordination** is assisting families in making informed choices based on needs, assisting families in establishing dental homes, and encouraging continuity of care.
- **Informing** is advising families of newly Medicaid enrolled children about the oral health services within EPSDT, educating them as to the benefits of dental preventive care, and providing oral health resource information.
- **Exams** are done by a licensed dentist and include a comprehensive oral inspection and evaluation that includes diagnosis of dental disease.

Initial Exam - one time per patient; also allowed when provider has not seen the patient within a three-year period.

Routine Exam - every six months.

Limited Exam -when necessary for a specific problem or emergency such as an injury or infection.

- **X-Rays** are provided periodically to check for decay in between the teeth, disease, and evaluation of tooth development
- **Cleanings** of the teeth are recommended every six months.
- **Screenings** (Assessments) are done by dental hygienists to identify dental anomalies or diseases, such as dental caries (decay), gum disease, soft tissue lesions, or developmental problems and to ensure that preventive dental education is provided to the parents or guardians.
- **Fluoride Varnish Applications** are allowed three times per patient per year, from an EPSDT screening center by a hygienist, at least 90 days apart. Note: If an agency provides and bills for fluoride varnish, topical fluoride treatments provided in a dental office will still be reimbursed.
- **Sealants** are covered one time per tooth; limited to ages 6-18, and others with a physical or mental disability that impairs their ability to maintain adequate oral hygiene. Note: Replacement sealants may be covered when medically necessary after one year.
- **Restorative Treatment** for teeth with caries (decay) that require treatment is covered. Stainless steel crowns are also covered when the decay is so extensive that a filling is not possible. Only two porcelain (white) crowns per recipient are allowed every 12 months, unless prior approval is obtained.
- **Oral Surgery** is covered and includes surgical and nonsurgical extractions, root tip recovery, and surgical exposure of impacted or unerupted teeth for orthodontic reasons.
- **Anesthesia** is covered in three forms; general, intravenous sedation, and non-intravenous conscious sedation. These are payable services when the extent of the procedure indicates it or a concomitant disease or impairment warrants its use.

The following points should be kept in mind about dental care under Medicaid:

If the procedure is expensive, it probably requires prior approval. If the dentist does not get prior approval, Medicaid may refuse to pay the bill.

Some dental procedures take a long time to complete. If dental treatment is started, and then an individual becomes ineligible for Medicaid before completion, the dentist can bill the patient for any services provided after Medicaid is canceled. The patient then becomes responsible for the bill.



Dental appointments should be kept. However, if for some reason an appointment must be canceled, the dentist should be given at least 24 hours notice. When an appointment is broken without notice, the dentist can bill the patient. The patient then becomes responsible for the bill.

Why Worry About Baby Teeth? Won't They Fall Out Anyway?

Children need baby teeth to chew food properly, speak clearly, and smile with confidence. Baby teeth also save space for permanent teeth. If baby teeth are decayed and are not fixed, a child can be in a lot of pain or even lose teeth early. Some baby teeth are in a child's mouth until they 12 to 13 years old, so it is important to keep those teeth healthy.

What Dental Problems Can A Baby Have?

Dental problems can begin early. Babies and toddlers can get tooth decay, as well as gum disease. Decay can occur when a baby is put to bed with a bottle of formula, juice, or even breast milk. Use a bottle of water or a pacifier to put your baby to sleep. Do not allow your baby to nurse at will during the night. For good dental health, babies should be weaned from the bottle by 1 year of age. Stop dental problems before they start!

When Should My Child See A Dentist?

"First visit by first birthday" is recommended. Most babies begin getting teeth between 6 months and 1 year old. At the first dental visit, your dentist or hygienist will look at your child's teeth and gums, show you how to care for your child's teeth, and recommend how much fluoride your child needs to keep their teeth strong. A dental exam when a child is 1 year old can protect a child's smile for years to come.

When Should Children Begin Brushing Their Teeth?

It is important that you clean your baby's new teeth with a soft toothbrush or wet washcloth as soon as they appear in the mouth. Young children cannot do a good job of removing germs (plaque) from their teeth. It is important for parents to brush children's teeth until they can see that the child has the skill to do a good job on their own. For most children, that is around 6 years old. It is fine to let your child brush their own teeth, but the "final" brush should be done by the parent twice a day, especially at bedtime.

What About Flossing?

Parents should floss a young child's teeth. It is very important to clean between teeth with floss because a toothbrush can't reach these areas. Children may have the ability to floss their own teeth at about 8 or 9 years of age.

What Are Sealants?

Sealants are plastic coatings that are painted on chewing surfaces of children's permanent back teeth to protect those teeth from getting cavities. When a child's permanent molars erupt, usually at about 6 and again at 12 years old, sealants should be applied by a dentist or hygienist.

What Is Fluoride Varnish?

Fluoride varnish strengthens children's teeth. The stronger a child's teeth, the less chance that child has of getting cavities. The varnish is very sticky and a very small amount is used each time it is applied.



Every Child Counts

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Every Child Counts is Available for Your Next Meeting!

Every Child Counts continues to grow, with over six hundred members within the first six months! Our network has developed because of your work. Members have been responsible for arranging community meetings and inviting Every Child Counts to speak about this exciting opportunity in Iowa.

Our goal is to recruit three thousand members within the first three years. In order to reach our goal, we continue to need the support and guidance of our members. If you have community members you think would be interested in hearing more about Every Child Counts, we are available to schedule speaking engagements. Please feel free to contact Sheila Hansen, shansen@cfpciowa.org, or Kelli Soyer, ksoyer@cfpciowa.org, or at 515/280-9027

Every Child Counts – Update

From Sheila Hansen and Kelli Soyer

During the past six months, Every Child Counts has been organizing and recruiting membership to the network at the grassroots level. We have traveled extensively throughout the state with more events planned. To date, we have visited twenty-four communities.

As we travel Iowa, we are presenting the mission, goals, and 2005 legislative agenda for Every Child Counts. At the top of the radar screen is encouraging the “down payment” approach, which has been endorsed by the Urban Education Network (representing the superintendents of the eight largest school districts in Iowa). This approach requests an investment of \$90 million to begin the development of an early childhood system in Iowa. Understanding the State does not have the capacity to fully fund an early childhood system at the level needed, ECC is requesting an investment through a “down payment” as the first step in implementing the early childhood system. This investment amount would put Iowa as a leader among states supporting children between the ages of 0-5.

Research on an early childhood system has found that providing services and supports to children at a young age could save the state in future costs, which could include:

- Medical costs
- Child welfare, foster care, mental health, and juvenile justice
- Compensatory and remedial education costs
- Welfare costs
- Lost economic activity due to an undereducated and skilled adult workforce
- Criminal justice costs

Iowans have been receptive to the goals of Every Child Counts and energized by the “down payment” approach. We will continue this enthusiasm as we approach the 2005 legislative session and the opportunity to work with our network members on promoting child and family friendly policy.

(Please contact us if you would like more information on the “down payment”)

Election Summary

The election last month will bring some new faces to the Iowa Legislature. For the first time since 1933, the Iowa Senate is deadlocked with an even split in leadership. Prior to the election, Republicans held the majority with 29 of the 50 seats. The split in leadership will continue for the next two years, when in 2006, twenty-five of the Senate seats will be up for re-election.

The split will require that Democrats and Republicans share leadership responsibilities for the next two years. To learn more about the power sharing agreement, click on the following

link: <http://www.thedesmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20041110/NEWS10/411100325&SearchID=73189637289688>.

The Republicans will continue as the majority party in the Iowa House of Representatives. Prior to the election, Republicans held 54 of the 100 seats. After the November 2nd election, they have a two-seat majority, with 51 seats to the Republicans and 49 seats to the Democrats.

Throughout the 2005 legislative session, we will keep members informed of proposed legislation affecting children and families. Every Child Counts will strive to make children a priority in Iowa.



For more information please visit our website www.iowaschildren.com or contact John Calhoun calhounj@aea12.k12.ia.us

Check out the 'new and improved!' web site for CJJP at:

<http://www.state.ia.us/dhr/cjjp/index.html>

ASSOCIATION FOR IOWA'S CHILDREN

The Association for Iowa's Children has been formed to assist in developing a one-voice message for Iowa's Children. The Association has been formed through the cooperation of Empowerment Areas across the state of Iowa. The intent of this association is to work for the health, education and safety of all Iowa children.

The Association has developed a "Child at Heart" award to be awarded annually to a person that exhibits exemplary leadership regarding the promotion of early childhood development and awareness.

It is with great pride that the Association of Iowa's Children presents the first annual "Child at Heart" award to Kris Bell. Kris Bell has provided tremendous leadership to the development of Empowerment and the advocacy of Early Childhood. Kris was the first Empowerment Facilitator appointed by Governor Vilsack in October of 1999. She has been a true champion for the early childhood effort in the State of Iowa, using her leadership skills and passion to develop the Empowerment initiative. She continues this effort as the Education Policy Liaison for the Office of Governor Vilsack.



Kris, the Association for Iowa's Children and the children of Iowa thank you for your commitment and leadership on their behalf.

Healthy Start, Grow Smart Magazine

The Iowa Medicaid program has received a grant from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to distribute 13 pre-printed magazines to families of each child in Iowa born to a mother receiving Medicaid benefits. The magazines will assist with efforts to improve early childhood health for Iowa's youngest children by improving the information available to parents and caregivers about best practices in early childhood development. The information provides age-appropriate information about health, safety, nutritional needs, and early cognitive development that has been proven to help babies thrive. There are a total of thirteen (13) magazines, one for newborns and an additional one for each month of the baby's first year of life.

The Healthy Families toll free line will provide additional information and handle requests for magazines in Spanish. The first mailing will be in December 2004 to the families of the children born in November 2004. The first mailing includes both the newborn and one-month magazines.

To review the magazines go to:
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medicaid/healthystart/default.asp>

Do you have an innovative program or event happening in your local community empowerment area?

We would like to feature it in an upcoming newsletter! Send text (along with pictures!) to Deb Scrowther, Office of Empowerment, debra.scrowther@iowa.gov by the 15th of the month for consideration in our bi-monthly publication.

Iowa Program for Infant & Toddler Caregivers (IA PITC) Trainings

By: Beth Walling, State Coordinator

Beginning Together: Inclusive Care Training for Child Care Providers

The Iowa Program for Infant & Toddler Caregivers (IA PITC) is currently completing trainer certification in what is fondly termed "Module V." Trainers who were already certified in the first four modules were eligible to attend the Beginning Together training institute that was held in June 2004. Together with early childhood special education consultants, and supported funding from Early Access, the trainers have developed lessons utilizing community resources so that child care providers will better understand how to care for babies and toddlers who require special care. This concept is consistent with the individualized care philosophy already a part of the IA PITC trainings.

Beginning Together was created by the CA Dept of Ed, Sonoma State University, and WestEd, and this was the first time that the training has been offered outside of CA.

"Taking steps toward...



...raising the quality of care for Iowa's infants and toddlers."

Undertaking this offering provided several opportunities:

- To build on our base of qualified trainers who are out in the field working with child care providers to bring information about children with special needs to them and improve the quality of services those children and their families experience.
- To ask for the support and partnership of Iowa special needs advocates in Module V content, messages, trainers, and training offerings.
- For Iowa's special needs advocates to have a common message regarding infants and toddlers.
- To build upon strengths of special needs advocates and continue steps toward an integrated, comprehensive statewide effort for infants and toddlers with special needs.
- To identify implications for using all modules with other audiences (non-child care providers). Groups such as Iowa Foster and Adoptive Parents Association are currently offered trainings. E.g. Service Coordinators for Early ACCESS who need training to increase their knowledge about infants and toddlers, families, and special needs.

Classes will begin sometime in late spring or early summer 2005. Participants will be encouraged to take the first four modules prior to attending training in Module V. For more information about these trainings, please contact the regional Infant Toddler Specialists via this website:

www.iaeceprofdev.org/training_resources/PITC.html

Getting Ready for School Begins At Birth



A New Booklet and Web Site from Zero to Three

"Getting Ready for School Begins at Birth: How to help your child learn in the early years" explains how - through everyday interactions with the people they love and trust - young children develop skills in four areas essential for success in school: language and literacy skills, thinking skills, self-control, and self-confidence. This booklet, which has been endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, is designed to help parents understand what they can do to get their baby or toddler off to the best start by using everyday interactions to teach the basic skills that she will need to cooperate, get along with others, and be an enthusiastic learner.

For more information about Getting Ready for School Begins at Birth, or to download the booklet in a pdf format, see: <http://www.zerotothree.org/schoolreadiness>.



A new analysis of data from the University of Iowa Public Policy Center shows that 65 percent of uninsured children in Iowa have not had a well-child visit in the past year. The survey also showed that uninsured children were much less likely to have a regular source of medical care with about three quarters reporting they had personal doctor or nurse compared to over 90 percent of children covered by Medicaid or private insurance. The analysis concludes that many uninsured children lack access to basic health care services; sometimes rely on hospital emergency rooms for routine care; and are more likely than insured children to have an unmet or delayed medical need.

"What these data tell us is what low-income working parents across this state and nation already know -- that not having health insurance is bad for our state's children. Without insurance too many children are missing the regular check ups and preventive care that will prepare them to do their best in school," said Beth Jones, project coordinator for *Covering Kids and Families* in Iowa.

Additional findings from the analysis of data from the 2000 Iowa Child and Family Household Health Survey indicate that uninsured children are missing out on medical treatments they could receive if they were enrolled in Medicaid or **hawk-i**. Among low-income uninsured children, whose family income makes it likely that they are eligible for coverage through Medicaid or **hawk-i**:

- 65 percent had not had a well-child visit in the past year
- Eighty percent of uninsured children in Iowa were eligible for either Medicaid or **hawk-i**
- Almost nine out of ten insured children and parents with the same insurance coverage.

"Public insurance programs provide much needed health care coverage for children who would otherwise be uninsured," said Angie Doyle Scar, state **hawk-i** outreach coordinator. "In fact, without these programs, the number of uninsured in Iowa would be much higher, and many of them would be children."

According to data from the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2002 there were 8.5 million uninsured children in the United States, or 11.6 percent of the nation's children. Millions of these children are needlessly going without health care coverage because many of them are eligible for low-cost or free health care coverage programs. Medicaid and SCHIP provide at least 17 million children with coverage that includes routine checkups, hearing and vision screenings, prescription medicines, and hospitalization. Eligibility for these programs varies by state, but, on average, a family of four earning up to \$37,000 a year or more may qualify.

Covering Kids & Families also works with corporate partners to promote Medicaid and SCHIP enrollment. Some of the 2004 corporate partners include Capital One, CVS/pharmacy, Giant Food, LLC, Stop & Shop, and H&R Block. These corporations promote messages about low-cost and free health care coverage and the national toll-free 1(877) KIDS-NOW number through billing statements, children's prescription information sheets, advertising circulars, milk cartons and special tax information forms.

"Corporations that work with *Covering Kids & Families* give much more than an in-kind gift or advertising space, they provide an opportunity," said Sarah Shuptrine, director of the *Covering Kids & Families* National Program Office. "An opportunity to let parents and guardians know that help is available for an all too common problem--affording health care for their children."

Families can learn more about low-cost and free health care coverage for children by calling **hawk-i** customer service toll-free at 1(800) 257-8563 or visit the **hawk-i** webpage at www.hawk-i.org.

Links to Empowerment

Web sites

State: www.empowerment.state.ia.us

Benton County

www.bcempowerment.com

Buchanan Delaware Fayette:

www.bdfempowerment.org

Cerro Gordo, Hancock, Worth:

www.cghwempowerment.com

Dubuque:

www.empowerdubuque.org

Floyd, Chickasaw, Mitchell:

www.fmcempowerment.com

HAWC (Howard, Allamakee,

Winneshiek):

www.HAWC-Iowa.com

Hardin

<http://www.empowerhardin.com/>

Humboldt, Hamilton, Wright

www.buildingfamilies.net

Jasper:

<http://www.jaspercountyempowerment.org/>

Johnson:

<http://www.jcempowerment.org>

Linn:

www.linnempowerment.homestead.com/homepage.html

Marshall:

www.youthandviolence.org

Pocahontas, Calhoun and

Webster:

www.linking-families.com

Polk:

www.humanservicesplanningalliance.org

Scott:

www.scottcountyempowerment.org/

Story:

<http://www.storycountyfamily.org>

Washington:

www.empowerwashington.org

Woodbury:

www.siouxlandship.org

Send us your web site address and we'll include it in the next newsletter.

T.E.A.C.H.
Early
Childhood®
IOWA
Scholarship
Program

By: Barb Merrill,
 Apprenticeship/TEACH
 Program Coordinator



T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA
Participation Report – Fall 2004

CCR&R Region	Center	Home	Rural	Urban	Assoc Teacher	Assoc Family	Active	Completed	Totals
1	4	3	7	0	4	3	7	0	7
2	2	9	10	1	2	9*	11	1	12
3	3	3	6	0	3	3	6	4	10
4	17	22	14	25	16†	23±	39	9	48
5	16§	22	25	13	14	22	38	0	38
TOTALS	42	59	62	39	39	60	101	14	115**

* Two of CCR&R Region 2s home providers are funded by FMC Empowerment.
 † Two of CCR&R Region 4's center providers are funded by Dallas County Empowerment.
 ± Up to twenty-four of CCR&R Region 4's home providers are funded by Polk County Empowerment.
 § Three of CCR&R's Region 5's center providers are also registered as child care apprentices.
 ** Represents total number of providers supported by T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA Associate Degree Scholarships to date. This figure does not include 30 CDA Assessment Scholarships that have been awarded.

Child Development Associate Credential

Thank you to Carol Rainforth from our advisory committee, Training Coordinator at Central Iowa Child Care Resource and Referral, for sharing this information.

What is the CDA Credential?

CDA Credential is a nationally recognized credential, awarded child care practitioners meeting specific requirements set up by the Council for Professional Recognition in Washington, D.C. To contact the Council for Professional recognition, write or call at:
 Council for Professional Recognition
 2460 16th Street, NW
 Washington, D.C. 20009-3575
 1-800-424-4310
www.cdacouncil.org

Who is eligible to earn a CDA Credential?

- You must be 18 years or older.
- You must be a high school graduate or hold a GED.
- You must have worked 480 clock hours within the past five years with young children (infants through preschoolers) including experience in at least one area- child care center with infants/toddlers or preschool age children, family child care home, home visitor.

What steps do I have to complete to earn a CDA credential?

- Complete **120 hours of formal training** in early childhood education and child development
- **Be observed** working with young children by a Field Advisor
- Complete 6 position statements called **Statements of Competence** about how children grow and develop and how you implement best practices in your care environment
- Complete a **Resource File** collection
- Request parents of children in your care complete **Parent Survey** that reflects how the parents feel about the care you provide their children

Program Update

Effective January 2005, T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA will be offering scholarship contracts to directors and assistant directors of licensed child care programs who wish to complete their associate degree in early childhood education or a Child Development Associate credential. Some eligibility requirements apply. Call us for an application packet and more information.

Did you know?

Nearly 90% of the T.E.A.C.H. IOWA recipients find they are also eligible for Pell grants. Pell grants are first applied to the student's share (and the center's share, if applicable) of the college program costs.

Did you know?

Eighty-one Iowa TEACH recipients completed over 750 college credits, supported by our program, between August 2003 and August 2004!

T.E.A.C.H. Continued -

- Be tested by a Council Representative (**Formal Testing Visit**) who:
 - ⇒ Collects your Statements of Competence
 - ⇒ Reviews your Resource File
 - ⇒ Collects your Observation Instrument
 - ⇒ Collects your Parent Surveys
 - ⇒ Administers a written test of your skills in caring for young children
 - ⇒ Administers an oral interview to gather information from you on how you interact with young children

How much does it cost?

The Council for Professional Recognition CDA Credential Application Fee is currently, \$325. This fee is due when you submit your completed CDA Credential Application. There are other costs to achieving the requirements for the CDA Credential. Those costs vary and depend upon the process through which you are earning your training hours and completing the other requirements. You should contact the organization sponsoring the CDA Credential process in your area for more information.

How can I pay this \$325?

If you are employed in a regulated child care program in Iowa, T.E.A.C.H. can help!

If I have more questions who can I talk with?

Call us at 515-883-1206, extension 129! We'll help you all we can.

"Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take - but by the moments that take our breath away."

Promoting Social

Emotional Competence

JOIN US FOR INTERNET CHATS WITH LEADING EXPERTS

Dear Associate Partner:

We thought you would be interested to know that *The Center on Evidence-Based Practice: Young Children with Challenging Behavior* will be hosting a series of Internet Chats on topics related to supporting young children's social emotional development and preventing challenging behaviors.

For more information on these chats, please see <http://csefel.uiuc.edu/chat.html>

Coming in 2005...

Creating Home/Program Partnerships That Work: Supporting Children with Problem Behavior

Date/Time: January 26, 2005 (8-9 PM ET, 7-8 PM CT, 6-7 PM MST, 5-6 PM PT)

Guest: **Matt Timm, Ph.D.** Tennessee Voices for children

Summary: In this chat, we will discuss strategies for working collaboratively with families to promote children's social emotional development and address problem behavior.

Leadership Strategies for Supporting Children's Social and Emotional Development and Addressing Challenging Behavior

Date/Time: March 30, 2005 (1-2 PM CST, 12-1 PM MST, 2-3 PM ET, 11 AM -12 PM PT)

Guest: **Barbara Smith, Ph.D.**, University of Colorado at Denver

Summary: In this chat, we will discuss strategies, tools, and resources available for administrators to use in their efforts to help early care providers support children's social emotional development and address challenging behavior.