



Early Childhood Iowa Monday Musings July 11, 2016 Vol. 3, No. 26

Welcome to the ECI **Monday Musings**. It is a compilation of information, practical advice, training announcements, and/or success stories. **Monday Musings** is intended to disseminate information to Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders in a timely fashion. (We may on occasion send out a separate email with information if it needs immediate attention or if for a specific audience.)

Please let us know if you have something you would like to contribute or have suggestions or comments at jeffrey.anderson@iowa.gov

Back Issues of Monday Musing are available [here](#).

“Education is not the filling of a bucket, but the lighting of a fire.”

-W. B. Yeats

State Information:

Learn more about the changes coming to Child Care

DHS has recorded videos about the child care changes that you can access through the DHS website. Many of the changes and new requirements must be in place by October 1, 2016.

There are separate videos for each type of child care business that must follow the new requirements.

- “ Non-Registered Child Care Homes with a Child Care Provider Agreement
- “ Child Development Homes
- “ Child Care Centers

Access the recorded videos: <https://dhs.iowa.gov/reauthorization-of-the-child-care-and-development-block-grant>

There is a [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document available on the Iowa Child Care Resource and Referral website that may answer questions you have. You can also call 1-877-216-8481 if you have additional questions.

Federal Information:

Early Head Start Expansion and Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership Funding Opportunity Announcements Posted!

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) announces approximately \$135 million in funding available to expand access to high-quality, comprehensive services for low-income infants and toddlers and their families. This funding will support the creation of Early Head Start-Child Care (EHS-

CC) Partnerships and the expansion of Early Head Start (EHS) services to children and families. ACF solicits applications from public entities, including states, or private non-profit organizations, including community-based or faith-based organizations, or for-profit agencies that meet eligibility for applying as stated in section 645A of the Head Start Act.

Find the Funding Opportunity Announcements The EHS Expansion and EHS-CC Partnerships funding opportunity announcements (FOAs) were posted June 23, 2016:

- Early Head Start Expansion and EHS-Child Care Partnership
Grants: <https://ami.grantsolutions.gov/index.cfm?switch=foa&fon=HHS-2016-ACF-OHS-HP-1181>
- American Indian and Alaska Native EHS Expansion and EHS-Child Care Partnerships: <https://ami.grantsolutions.gov/index.cfm?switch=foa&fon=HHS-2016-ACF-OHS-HI-R11-1182>
- Migrant and Seasonal EHS-Child Care and EHS Expansion Partnerships: <https://ami.grantsolutions.gov/index.cfm?switch=foa&fon=HHS-2016-ACF-OHS-HM-1183>

Promoting the Development of Dual Language Learners: Helping All Children Succeed
By Linda K. Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood Development and Libby Doggett, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Early Learning

A growing number of children in the United States go to kindergarten with the advantage of knowing a language other than or in addition to English. Bilingualism is an asset in school, life, and the workplaces of today and tomorrow. As a result, it's so important that our nation's early learning programs support all children, including those who are dual language learners. Earlier this month, the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services and Education (HHS/ED) released a [joint policy statement](#) to promote the development and learning of young children, birth to age five, who are dual language learners (DLLs).

Troubling Pay Gap for Early Childhood Teachers

On June 14, the U. S. Department of Education and Health and Human Services released a [report](#) that shines a spotlight on the gap in pay for early education teachers. The report revealed that preschool teachers are paid less than mail order clerks, tree trimmers and pest control workers. Child care workers make less than hairdressers and janitors. In fact, most early childhood educators earn so little that they qualify for public benefits, including the very programs targeting low-income families in which they teach. To learn more go [to https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/fact-sheet-troubling-pay-gap-early-childhood-teachers](https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/fact-sheet-troubling-pay-gap-early-childhood-teachers).

Other Information:

Early Childhood Iowa Professional Development Summit – REGISTER NOW!

This year's summit is right around the corner – July 28 at Reiman Gardens in Ames! If you develop, plan, or schedule professional development for staff and employees in early care and education, family support, health, mental health, nutrition, and special education/early intervention, plan to register and attend. Click [here](#) to find registration materials.

Iowa Ranks 3rd in Latest National KIDS COUNT Child Well-Being Report

The Annie E. Casey Foundation's 2016 KIDS COUNT Data Book finds that more of today's youth are healthier and completing high school on time, despite mounting economic inequality and increasingly unaffordable college tuition. This year, the annual report focuses on key trends in child well-being in the post-recession years, and offers recommendations for policymakers.

According to the Child and Family Policy Center (Iowa Kids Count)

Iowa ranks third nationally in the 2016 national *KIDS COUNT*® *Data Book* report on child well-being, up one place from the position the state held in 2015. The 27th edition of the annual *Data Book*, from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, compares and ranks the 50 states on 16 child and family well-being indicators in four separate domains.

Nationally, Iowa ranks third among all states in the health domain and in the top ten in two other domains: fourth in economic well-being and fifth in family and community. The state just missed the top ten in education, ranking 11th when compared to other states.

Since 2008, Iowa experienced an increase in the percentages of children living in poverty and in single parent families, which both rose seven percent. However, the percentage of children without health insurance and the teen birth rate have shown improvement since that time, decreasing 50 percent and 39 percent, respectively. In addition, the percentage of high school students not graduating on time decreased 21 percent since 2007--08.

"Iowa's third place ranking overall is a reflection of the importance people in this state place on providing for children and families," said Michael Crawford, Iowa KIDS COUNT director with the Child and Family Policy Center in Des Moines. "However, there are a few indicators such as child poverty and single parent families that have worsened the past few years. One in seven children in Iowa live in poverty. While the economy has recovered for some, we see a widening gap that leaves some children behind."

[ORDER YOUR COPY](#)

[VIEW HOW ALL STATES RANK ON THE KIDS COUNT INDEX](#)

To View IOWA'S Data: http://www.cfpciowa.org/en/data/kids_count/

Save the Date: August 4 ECI Results Accountability Webinar

Join the members of the Results Accountability Component Group for a brief webinar on August 4, 2016 at 10 am to learn about the work of the group and how stakeholders from across early childhood systems can be involved. ECI area directors will share their perspectives on how the work of the Results Accountability Component Group has impacted local decision-making and efforts to achieve outcomes for Iowa's youngest citizens.

Registration information to be released soon.

Getty's Door to Inclusion:

Last year Larry Edelman produced a video of Getty virtually attending preschool in "Getty's Window To Inclusion: The Chance To Be Just Like Any Other Kid." This year he re-visited Getty as she attends kindergarten. You can find [Getty's Door to Inclusion](#) at the top of the page in the [General Interest](#) section of the **Desired Results Access Project Video Library**.

Getty is a beautiful young girl who has spinal muscular atrophy (SMA). Because of health concerns related to her SMA, Getty cannot physically be near other children. Last year we saw Getty virtually attending preschool using a VGo in "Getty's Window To Inclusion: The Chance To Be Just Like Any Other Kid." Now in kindergarten, Getty virtually attends a typical kindergarten classroom every day. In this heartwarming video, Getty's mother, Kate Mathany, and her teacher, Pinky Ngo, describe and illustrate the importance of having consistent and high expectations for all children, sound communication strategies, and effective parent-teacher collaboration. In addition to seeing how Getty's skills have blossomed, we see the social experience of kindergarten as Getty develops close friendships with her classmates. This video illustrates "doing whatever it takes" to include all children in education and community and has important messages for all those interested in early childhood and elementary school inclusion, for all current and future early childhood educators, and for families who are looking for solutions for their children who cannot attend school because of health reasons.

Save the Date: Iowa AEYC Fall Early Care and Education Institute

Mark your calendar for September 30 and October 1, 2016 for the Early Care and Education Fall Institute. Registration materials will be available in early summer. Again this year, the Institute will be held at Prairie Meadows Events & Conference Center, Altoona, IA.

To view the Announcement: [Early Care and Education Institute](#)

For more information about Early Childhood Iowa, visit our website:

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

To join the ECI Stakeholders, please complete the commitment survey at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FSXR5F2>

2016 ECI Meeting Calendar:

ECI State Board

10:00 – 1:00

September 9

November 4

ECI Stakeholders Alliance

3 – 4 Hour meetings

September 13 (AM)

December 13 (PM)

ECI Area Directors

September 13 (afternoon)

December 7 All day

ECI State Dept. Directors

8:30 – 10:30

October 7

ECI Steering Committee

Time Varies

August 4 (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM)

October 6 (9:00 AM – Noon)

November 3 (9:00 AM – Noon)