



Early Childhood Iowa Monday Musings July 25, 2016 Vol. 3, No. 27

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](#).

"Play is the highest form of research."
-Albert Einstein

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.

Registration Open: 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.

To register:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/e8b0da6ade3a46dd66858a512be5123a>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Federal Information:

Responsible Fatherhood PSAs released

New responsible fatherhood public service announcements were released to focus on the important role of fathers in helping their children to thrive. The PSAs were produced for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Administration for Children and Families (ACF) by the Ad Council. The theme of the announcements is: “It only takes a moment to make a moment.”

These annual PSAs have been popular on TV, radio and social media. This year’s announcements, released last month in conjunction with Father’s Day, build on the tagline of previous PSAs urging fathers to “take time to be a dad today.”

“Research shows that children do better when their fathers are present in their lives,” said Mark Greenberg, acting assistant secretary at HHS’ Administration for Children and Families. “We’re supporting local efforts around the country that are actively working with fathers to help them get jobs, become better parents and strengthen family relationships.”

Accompanying the new public service announcements is a social media campaign encouraging fathers to share their photos on Facebook and at the fatherhood.gov website with the hashtag #makeamoment.

ACF funds 44 organizations across the United States to provide responsible fatherhood activities.

Grantees are called upon to help fathers:

- Improve their relationship with their spouses, significant others and/or the mothers of their children.
- Become better parents.
- Contribute to the financial well-being of their children by providing job training.

To view the PSAs, click here: [Rain | Fatherhood Involvement | Ad Council - YouTube](#)

To see the Family Engagement Policy Statement and Compendium of Parenting Interventions, click here: [Family Engagement | Early Childhood Development | Administration for Children and Families](#)

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>.

Other Information:

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/

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.

Registration Open: Iowa AEYC Fall Early Care and Education Institute

It is time to register for the 2016 Iowa Early Care & Education Fall Institute! This year's Institute is planned for **September 30 - October 1**, with optional pre-conference events on September 29, at **The Events Conference Center** at Prairie Meadows, Altoona, Iowa. This year's theme, **Supporting Children in a Changing World: Engage, Collaborate, Empower** describes our work and efforts as we move to implement new requirements and initiatives, together! Over one hundred workshop options will be offered, and over 1000 people are expected to attend. Please find the registration materials attached, or go to <http://www.iowaaec.org/iowa-aeyc-institutes.cfm>

A few things to remember about this event:

- ✓ Members and staff of co-sponsoring organizations may attend at the reduced "member" rate
- ✓ All sessions approved for DHS training credit – up to 18 hours of training credit available.
- ✓ Most sessions approved for NAC renewal credit for program administrators.
- ✓ For an additional cost, participants may earn one graduate credit – great for teacher licensure renewal.
- ✓ Early bird registration rates are available until September 15 – register early!

Watch for additional information about keynote and featured speakers, workshop topics, exhibitors, and special events over the next few weeks. We are looking forward to seeing you in September!

Building young children's social and emotional skills (Child Trends)

Young children's social and emotional skills set the stage for academic and even (later) career achievement. But good-quality, easy-to-use tools that measure these skills are limited. Child Trends recently completed a project recommending measures of early childhood social and emotional development to help federal statistical agencies develop related benchmarks.

[**READ MORE**](#)

Child Care in America: 2016 Fact Sheet (Child Care Aware)

The cost of child care in every state rivals families' annual expenditures on housing, transportation and the cost of tuition at a four-year, public university. Further, in 38 states, the cost of infant care exceeds 10 percent of the state's median income for a two-parent family, according to the new [Child Care in America: 2016 Fact Sheets](#) report. Ensuring that all children have access to high quality and affordable early childhood programs is essential; however, in every state, this type of care can be hard to find and difficult to afford. Although the reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act has raised the floor for health and safety standards and encourages quality programming for all child care settings, there is still much work to be done, the report concludes.

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 Steering Committee

Time Varies

August 24 (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM)

October 6 (9:00 AM – Noon)

November 3 (9:00 AM – Noon)

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