



Early Childhood Iowa Monday Musings April 13, 2015 2015 Vol. 2, No. 15

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](#).

"I believe that this [Head Start] is one of the most constructive, and one of the most sensible, and also one of the most exciting programs that this Nation has ever undertaken."

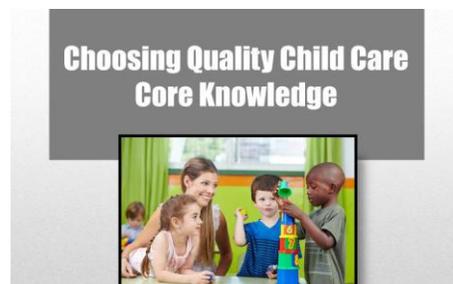
-Lyndon Johnson (1965)

State Information:

Released Today: Choosing Quality Child Care Core Knowledge Materials

Over the past 6 months **Child Care Resource and Referral and the ECI Public Engagement Component Group (Parent Engagement Work Group)** collaborated to convene early childhood professionals from various agencies and child care providers in Iowa to create materials for parents who are looking to choose quality child care. The goal of this project was to take the most important Iowa regulations and best practices of child care and present them in a way that could be used by any agency to develop educational resources for parents. As professionals, we can use the new core knowledge document to narrow down topics to make selecting child care easier for parents.

Along with the core knowledge document, there are other supporting educational resources about choosing quality child care including a PowerPoint presentation, 15 minute video and 5 minute video. All of these resources were created using the core knowledge document.



The document is not intended to ever be used in its entirety. Instead, it is a guide to develop smaller communication pieces to educate families and communities. If planning to use the core knowledge document, first identify the following:

- **Target Audience:** This is selecting **"WHO"** to communicate to. It is best to be as specific as possible when selecting your target audience. For example: First time parents ages 18-24 or Grandparents caring for their grandchildren full-time. A very specific audience will help narrow down the message and identify key items to select from the Choosing Quality Child Care Core Knowledge.

- *Medium:* This is deciding “**WHAT**” method to use to communicate to the target audience. For example: brochure, flyer, booklet, social media, Power Point, television, radio, etc. Choosing a medium will direct the message.
- *Message:* This is narrowing down “**HOW MUCH**” information will be used to communicate to the target audience using the chosen medium. The amount of information included in the message must be appropriate for the type of medium selected. For Example: 10 pages of information from the Choosing Quality Child Care Core Knowledge document will not fit on a one page brochure.

Selecting the **WHO**, **WHAT** and **HOW MUCH** will help narrow down what information to use from the Choosing Quality Child Care Core Knowledge.

To access them Core Knowledge document, the PowerPoint presentation and the videos go here on the ECI Website:

[Choosing Quality Child Care](#)

Feel free to use these materials to create the foundation for a strong, consistent message for choosing quality child care. If you have questions, please contact Amy Stoll at astoll@midsioux.org.

Summer Institute on the Project Approach

The fourth annual Summer Institute on the Project Approach at St. Ambrose University is July 27 -31, 2015. Participants are eligible to receive PD credit and/or graduate credit through the Mississippi Bend AEA.

Last summer there were 50 participants from 11 states and two foreign countries! For more Institute information see this [flyer](#).

To register on-line: [Summer Institute on the Project Approach](#)

For more information contact Sallee Beneke at benekesallee@sau.edu

Shared Visions Awardees Announced

The Iowa Department of Education has announced the Awardees for Shared Vision Programs. The competitive grant application process resulted in a total of 67 applications being awarded funding out of the 89 total received. Final award amounts are contingent on the finalization of the state appropriation. FY16 grants are awarded with a renewal option of up to five years provided grantees meet program requirements. The next competitive grant process for Shared Visions Preschool Programs will be for FY21.

A document titled *FY16 Shared Visions Preschool Program - Awarded Grantees* will be posted on the [Shared Visions Preschool Program webpage](#) in the **Awarded Locations and Application** section. You should be able to access it on the website by the middle of next week.

In the mean time, please see the attachment for a list of successful applicants.

Save the Date - Webinar: Iowa's Child Care Assistance — May 6, 2015 – 10:00 AM –Noon

Do you have want to learn more about Iowa's Child Care Assistance Program? Do you want to know more about eligibility criteria, parental co-pays, payment rates, forms families and child care providers receive, etc.? Do you want to see how the KinderTrack data system helps families and child care providers manage information for the Child Care Assistance Program?

If you answered yes to some or all of these questions, this DHS webinar is for you. The scope of the webinar will be both **DEEP** and **WIDE** because every person's knowledge of the Child Care Assistance Program varies. The webinar is fast paced and will cover a lot of information. There is also "pre-work" associated with this webinar. As soon as you register, you will receive a link to access the information and handouts for the webinar. Attendees are expected to review this information prior to the webinar.

Webinar registration information will be sent out as soon as it is available.

Life Skills Progression™ (LSP) Training Opportunity

When: May 5, 2015
Where: Carroll County State Bank
Highway 30 & Adams St.
Carroll, Iowa 51401
9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Audience: Home visitation programs and professionals working with at-risk families that have children 0-5 years; including parent educators, public health nurses, social workers, and mental health care professionals.

Cost: \$75

For more information see the attached Flyer.

Federal Information:

A Message from Sylvia Mathews Burwell, U. S. Health and Human Services Secretary

This year marks a historic milestone for Head Start: its 50th anniversary. Since it was created 50 years ago, Head Start has provided more than 32 million children with comprehensive early learning experiences, including school readiness, health, mental health, nutrition, and family engagement supports. This year alone, that number will be over a million.

Thanks to the work done every day at Head Start centers across America, children's lives have been changed. Millions of kids will learn to love reading and graduate on time; they will grow up a little more secure, stay out of trouble with the law, and find jobs.

I'm passionate about Head Start for many reasons, but one of them is personal: Head Start helped me.

In my rural home town of Hinton, it was one of the only early educational opportunities around. With an excellent teacher, Mrs. Rita Pack, I learned to love learning, and that love has stayed with me my whole life.



That's a foundation that all children can have.

Today, more than 16 million children in the United States live in families with incomes below the federal poverty level. And that includes a disproportionate amount of children of color: nearly 40 percent of black children and 35 percent of Hispanic children.

In light of these facts, and on this historic anniversary, now is the time to rededicate ourselves to the cause of a head start for those children who need it most. By strengthening the program—through new grants, performance standards, and the funding increases in President Obama's budget—we can continue to keep this promise to our nation's children. Our budget proposal requests over \$10 billion to provide more children with more intensive high-quality Head Start services. That is over \$1.5 billion over this year's enacted budget and a nearly \$4 billion increase over the course of President Obama's time in office.

Additionally, we've announced that Blanca Enriquez, a Head Start leader with 28 years of experience, will also be joining the Office of Head Start as director later this month. She is an excellent addition to our team and we are excited to have her.

Head Start and Early Head Start are crucial to fighting poverty and building up our next generation. They were founded on the principles that education is the door to opportunity; that poverty doesn't have to be a family legacy; and that everyone, no matter their background, deserves a shot at a productive life. That is the core of the American Dream.

Here's to serving our nation's children for another 50 years and beyond! Happy anniversary, Head Start!

CCDF Reauthorization Frequently Asked Questions

The Office of Child Care (OCC) has posted responses to a selection of frequently asked questions (FAQs) related to the Reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF). The FAQs can be found on [this page](#) of the OCC Web site.

*For information on how **Iowa** is approaching the implementation of the CCDF Reauthorization visit: [Reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant](#)*

Other Information:

From the National Research Center on Hispanic Children & Families: Guide to healthy marriage and responsible fatherhood programs

Many fatherhood programs serving Hispanic men do not reflect Latinos' unique needs. For example, though a high proportion of low-income Hispanic fathers live with their children, some programs focus on nonresidential fatherhood. This is one finding from a new brief by the [National Research Center on Hispanic Children & Families](#). The Center's guide summarizes aspects of programs on healthy marriage, relationship education, and responsible fatherhood. The Center is led by Child Trends and Abt Associates, with university partners.

[Learn More Here](#)

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>

2015 ECI Meeting Calendar:

ECI State Board

10:00 – 1:00

June 5

September 4 November 6

ECI State Dept. Directors

8:30 – 10:30 AM

May 1

October 2

ECI Stakeholders Alliance

3 – 4 Hour meetings

May 12 (PM)

September 8 (AM)

December 8 (PM)

ECI Steering Committee

Time Varies

June 4 (9:00 AM – Noon)

August 4 (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM)

October 1 (9:00 AM – Noon)

November 5 (9:00 AM – Noon)

ECI Area Directors

All day

April 8

(June will be regional meetings)

September 16

(December will be regional meetings)