



Early Childhood Iowa Monday Musings April 11, 2016 Vol. 3, 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 have found the best way to give advice to your children is to find out what they want and then advise them to do it."

-Harry S. Truman

State Information:

Early Childhood Iowa Senate File 2299

Senate File 2299 was approved Senate Appropriations committee and placed on the appropriations calendar.

This bill relates to the early childhood Iowa initiative. The early childhood Iowa (ECI) initiative was created to empower individuals, communities, and the state to work together to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of early care, education, health, and human services systems provided to families with children from zero through age five. The ECI state board, ECI area boards, and other state and local government agencies provide support, leadership, and facilitation of the growth of individual, community, and state responsibility in addressing the desired results for improving the quality of life in this state for young children and their families.

To read more about the bill go to: [SF2299](#)

Iowa Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan

The Iowa Department of Human Services, Division of Adult, Children and Family Services submitted the State Plan to the Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care on March 1, 2016 and are now awaiting federal approval. Click [Child Care Development Fund State Plan](#) to see the current plan.

Federal Information:

STEM starts early! Supporting our Youngest Innovators

Building on the President's [early learning](#) and ["Educate to Innovate"](#) agendas, the White House, with the Departments of Education and Health and Human Services, seeks to advance a [focus on STEM](#)

[experiences in a child's earliest years](#) by identifying research gaps, best practices, and technologies to support young children, parents and caregivers, educators, and communities. This spring, the Administration and [Invest in US](#) will hold an event at the White House on this important work and highlight external commitments along with federal resources and materials.

Characteristics of Home-based Early Care and Education Providers

Research Connections has recently added the [latest research findings](#) from the National Survey of Early Care and Education (NSECE), on characteristics of home-based early care and education providers.

For more research on home-based providers, check out our [Resource List](#) on quality improvement in home-based child care settings.

Preschool Development Grants Technical Assistance (PDG TA)

Webinar: Communication with Families

The Family Engagement Community of Practice invites you to participate in a Webinar on **Thursday, April 21, 2016, 3:00-4:00 ET**. Join Kiersten Beigel from the Office of Head Start and Brandi Black Thacker from the National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement to learn about strategies for communicating and connecting with families. Kiersten and Brandi will use the Head Start Parent, Family, and Community Engagement Framework as a springboard to discuss Strengths-based Attitudes and Relationship-based Practices that can build and grow relationships with families, a key to successful communication.

Register for this meeting!

Call-in toll-free number

1-877-668-4493 (US) 1-650-479-3208 (Canada)

Access code: 660 719 025

Other Information:

Hispanic Students Reading Scores Improve

Reading scores for U.S. Latino fourth- and eighth-graders rose by the equivalent of half a grade level in the past decade. Still, only 21 percent of Latino fourth-graders reached the proficient level in reading in 2015. This new report from the [Child Trends Hispanic Institute](#) compares progress across states and major cities, and for some major urban school districts. See how students are doing in Miami, LA, NYC, and more. Read more [here](#).

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

3 WAYS TO PROMOTE PREVENTION MONTH

April celebrates the role we all play in building great childhoods.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, and **Prevent Child Abuse Iowa** is joining states across the nation in encouraging everyone to take action to create great childhoods.

Across Iowa, communities are organizing family fun fairs, pinwheel gardens, 5ks and coloring contests. Follow our [Facebook page](#) to see how partners in your area are inspiring better futures as they celebrate the month.

And join us in advocating for child abuse prevention! Here are **3 ways you can participate**:

- 1. Speak Up!** Share the important message -- "Together we create great childhoods!" -- by posting one of our images on your social media page or putting up a poster at your workplace. [Write a personal statement](#) about why you believe in this cause. [Find awareness resources here.](#)
- 2. Plan an activity.** Designate a day to wear blue for child abuse prevention at your workplace or hold a pinwheel coloring contest for the children in your neighborhood. [Find ideas here.](#)
- 3. Connect.** The small actions you do every day -- like bringing a meal to a new parent, listening to someone's story or organizing a neighborhood gathering -- build the foundation children need to become healthy, successful adults. Seek out ways to make connections with the children and families in your life.

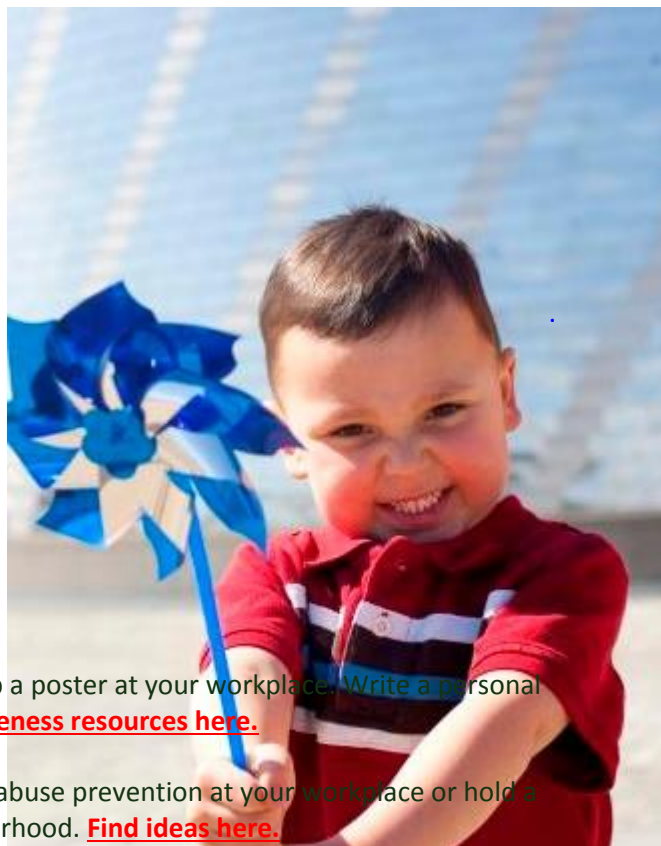
Tell us what you're doing to promote great childhoods in your community by using the hashtag #Pinwheel on your social media pages. Together we can create communities where all children grow up to reach their full potential!

Week of the Young Child: April 10 -16, 2016

The Week of the Young Child™ is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) celebrating early learning, young children, their teachers and families. Check [here](#) for a list of specific events and ways to get involved.

Iowa AEYC Spring Leadership Institute Registration is Open

IA AEYC is pleased to present the [registration booklet](#) (link) for the 2016 Iowa AEYC Spring Leadership Institute. This year's event will be held Saturday, May 7, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Holiday Inn & Suite Northwest, 4800 Merle Hay Rd, Des Moines, IA 50322. The attached registration booklet contains a detailed agenda for the day focused on the subject of **STEM**. We will be joined by Dr. Douglas



Clements, University of Denver, who will present a keynote address on the subject, “Why Math? The Importance of Mathematics in Early Childhood Education Programs.”

In addition, attendees will have the opportunity to choose from a variety of break-out sessions on such topics as:

- Strategies for Teaching Mathematics for Children Ages 3-5
- Farm to Early Childhood Education: Using Healthy Locally Grown Foods and Fitness to Impact Children’s Futures
- Math and Science in the Iowa Early Learning Standards and Iowa Core, Birth through Grade 3
- Ramps and Pathways
- Project Approach and Outdoor Education: Infusing STEM into Curriculum
- STEM in Infant-Toddler Care Settings

Registration fees are \$75 for AEYC members; \$95 for non-members. We hope you can join us for this important event.

Diversity Makes Us Smarter

An excerpt from a **Scientific American** article, "[How Diversity Makes Us Smarter](#)," which makes this same argument from a scientific point of view:

"Diversity of expertise confers benefits that are obvious—you would not think of building a new car without engineers, designers and quality-control experts—but what about social diversity? What good comes from diversity of race, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation? Research has shown that social diversity in a group can cause discomfort, rougher interactions, a lack of trust, greater perceived interpersonal conflict, lower communication, less cohesion, more concern about disrespect, and other problems. So what is the upside?

"The fact is that if you want to build teams or organizations capable of innovating, you need diversity. Diversity enhances creativity. It encourages the search for novel information and perspectives, leading to better decision making and problem solving. Diversity can improve the bottom line of companies and lead to unfettered discoveries and breakthrough innovations. Even simply being exposed to diversity can change the way you think. This is not just wishful thinking: it is the conclusion I draw from decades of research from organizational scientists, psychologists, sociologists, economists and demographers."

BUILD Webinar: Shared Interests on Behalf of Young Children: A Conversation between Health and Early Learning System Leaders about Health Equity and Early Learning

According to the World Health Organization, health is not simply the scope of health care services delivered “but it’s about the cultural, socio-economic, and environmental conditions in which we live. It is physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”

As a follow-up to our March 18th webinar, BUILD will continue the conversation between the health and early learning systems. We’ll focus on health and early learning systems “asks” and “offers” to each other as they both work toward building early childhood systems that address child well-being and health inequities.

To register for the Webinar: [Shared Interest](#)

Equity Starts Early

The Council of Chief State School Officers published a statement entitled [Equity Starts Early: How Chiefs Will Build High-Quality Early Education](#). Chief state school officers are united in our commitment to ensuring that students of all backgrounds attain college and career readiness. To achieve this goal, we are committed to leading new efforts to close opportunity and achievement gaps right from the start – in the early childhood years.

Special Days in April

April 7 World Health Day

April 7 commemorates the founding of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1948. World Health Day seeks to draw attention to a major global health concern each year.

Tip:

Focus on one area of your family’s health to improve, visit <http://health.gov/>.

April 22 Earth Day

Earth Day seeks to bring attention to and promote efforts dedicated to the protection of the environment. This day started as a U.S. observance in 1970 as a way to bring about awareness of ecological problems.

Tip:

Learn how you can help protect the environment, visit <https://www.epa.gov/earthday>.

April 29 Arbor Day

Arbor Day is a celebration of trees and their importance to providing shelter, stabilization for the ground, and beauty to the beholder. In 1970, President Richard Nixon declared Arbor Day a federal holiday and it is observed the last Friday in April each year.

Tip:

Visit a park and consider what plants you will plant in your area. To learn more about Arbor Day, visit http://www.americaslibrary.gov/jb/recon/jb_recon_arbor_1.html.

Watch all Five Episodes of *The Raising of America* FREE

In honor of [Week of the Young Child](#) (April 10-16), National Public Health Week and National Child Abuse Prevention Month, **watch all five episodes of *The Raising of America* FREE April 1 - 17** at www.raisingofamerica.org.

Help us spread the word!

WATCH #RaisingofAmerica FREE April 1 - 17 www.raisingofamerica.org

USE #RaisingofAmerica documentary to change the conversation
<http://raisingofamerica.org/sites/default/files/ActionToolkit.pdf>

CONNECT with #RaisingofAmerica partners using the documentaries because all kids deserve a strong start

<http://raisingofamerica.org/take-action/campaign-highlights>

This is a great opportunity to preview this pioneering series and consider how you can integrate it into your own organization's work like so many others are doing. Check out the many tools and resources at www.raisingofamerica.org.

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

June 3

September 9

November 4

ECI State Dept. Directors

8:30 – 10:30

May 6

October 7

ECI Stakeholders Alliance

3 – 4 Hour meetings

May 10 (PM)

September 13 (AM)

December 13 (PM)

ECI Steering Committee

Time Varies

April 7 (9:00 AM – Noon)

June 2 (9:00 AM – Noon)

August 4 (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM)

October 6 (9:00 AM – Noon)

November 3 (9:00 AM – Noon)

ECI Area Directors

April 6 All day

(June will be regional meetings)

September 13 (afternoon)

December 7 All day