



Early Childhood Iowa Monday Musings April 25, 2016 Vol. 3, No. 16

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](#).

“In spite of the excitement associated with the new research in brain development, it is important for early childhood personnel to realize that the behaviors they observe every day give them clues as to what is happening in the brain.” - Bettye Caldwell (1926 – 2016)

State Information:

Early Childhood Iowa Senate File 2299

Senate File 2299 was passed by the Iowa Senate on April 13, 2016 and messaged to the House. The House Appropriations committee passed the bill out of committee on April 21, 2016 recommending passage.

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.

Job Opening – Child Care Administrator

The Department of Human Services has announced an opening for the position of state Child Care Administrator. For more information:

https://sjobs.brassring.com/tgwebhost/jobdetails.aspx?jobId=2457368&PartnerId=25026&SiteId=5018&type=mail&JobReqLang=1&recordstart=1&JobSiteId=5018&JobSiteInfo=2457368_5018&ggid=0

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.

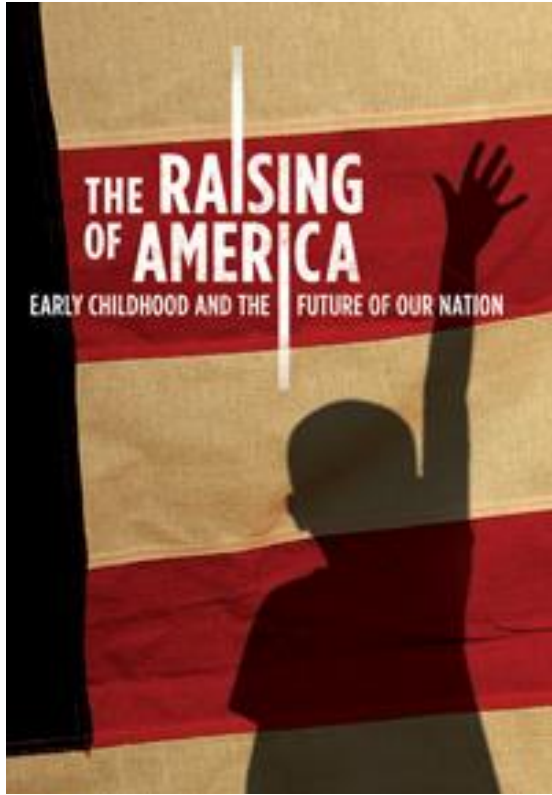
Other Information:

New Study Links Kindergarten Social-Emotional Skills to Long-Term Success

A recently released study from researchers at Johns Hopkins University, in collaboration with the Baltimore Education Research Consortium examine the relationship between social emotional readiness and key educational outcomes for more than 9,000 elementary school students attending Baltimore City Public Schools. The study, [The Costly Consequences of Not Being Socially and Behaviorally Ready by Kindergarten: Associations with Grade Retention, Receipt of Academic Support Services, and Suspensions/Expulsions](#), found that children who are behind in social-behavioral development upon entry to kindergarten are more likely to be retained, suspended or expelled at least once, and require more individualized supports. (*New America EdCentral*)

New Resources for Educators, Policy Makers and Families of Young DLLs

The challenges of educating young Hispanic DLLs is currently at the forefront of many conversations. Due to the sheer numbers of young DLLs aging into early care settings and kindergarten, the learning outcomes for preschool age DLLs has mounting implications for educators and policy makers alike. One aspect of the conversation centers on the importance of [access to high quality preschool programs for young DLLs](#). Others focus on the challenges faced by educators and administrators when serving this growing population in their classrooms and schools. Policy makers and research groups have been working simultaneously to identify strategies and programmatic approaches that promise to help both teachers and their students. Read more here: [New Resources for Educators, Policy Makers and Families of Young DLLs](#) (*NIER*)



SAVE THE DATE

The Raising of America: Early Childhood and the Future of Our Nation

Documentary Screening and Panel Discussion

Wednesday, May 25

2:00 – 4:00 PM

Plymouth Church

4126 Ingersoll Ave, Des Moines IA

Join us for a screening of this powerful documentary that explores how a strong start for all our kids can lead to a healthier, safer, better educated and more prosperous and equitable America.

A panel of early childhood experts, advocates, and community leaders will engage participants to discuss current efforts and future needs to invest in kids and parents. **Registration Information Available Soon**

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."

5 Ways Trauma-Informed Care Supports Children's Development (Child Trends)

Childhood trauma is **common**. More than two thirds of children in the United States experience a **traumatic event or circumstances**--such as **abuse or neglect**, death of a loved one, or **community violence**--by the time they turn 16. **Young children (birth to age five)**, in particular, are disproportionately exposed to **traumatic events and circumstances**.

To find out more: [5 Ways Trauma-Informed Care Supports Children's Development](#)

Special Days in April

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.

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 Stakeholders Alliance

3 – 4 Hour meetings

May 10 (PM)

September 13 (AM)

December 13 (PM)

ECI Area Directors

April 6 All day

(June will be regional meetings)

September 13 (afternoon)

December 7 All day

ECI State Dept. Directors

8:30 – 10:30

May 6

October 7

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)