

# Early Childhood Network



Fall 2005

**Iowa Department of Education  
Des Moines, Iowa**

# Iowa

## Early Childhood Network 2005-2006

The Early Childhood Network (ECN) was established in 1989 by the Iowa legislature. It is composed of Early Childhood Specialists and Consultants in the Iowa Department of Education and the Iowa Area Education Agencies.

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## Mission Statement

The Mission of the Iowa Early Childhood Network is to promote the optimal development and education of all young children by providing leadership and support to the collaborative efforts of families, schools, and communities.

Our belief statements are framed around the concept of life-long learners. These statements include beliefs for children and adults. The members of the Iowa Early Childhood Network believe:

### Beliefs About Children:

- A sense of belonging is a critical need of each child and begins with the child's family.
- Each child is a unique individual and learns best in an environment that celebrates diversity.
- Meeting the comprehensive needs of each child is a responsibility shared by the family, school, community, and government agencies.
- Young children learn through play and active engagement with their environment.
- Children grow best when they are treated with dignity and experience love, respect, and freedom from violence.
- Early childhood development and education are enhanced through social interactions and with support from adults who are significant to the child.
- The care and education of young children is the foundation for developing productive citizens in our democratic society.



## Mission Statement

### Beliefs About Adults:

- Acceptance and support by peers is integral to personal well-being.
- All people are unique, and this diversity strengthens the group.
- People are empowered through collaborative efforts.
- Adults learn best in a supportive environment that includes meaningful work, active engagement, personal commitment, and time for reflection.
- Relationships based on dignity, respect, recognition, and acceptance foster creativity and productivity.
- Our professional growth depends upon the interaction and support that occurs within The Early Childhood Network (professional, individual and collective).

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ECN Website:

[www.state.ia.us/educate/ecese/is/ecn](http://www.state.ia.us/educate/ecese/is/ecn)

State Library Of Iowa  
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Des Moines, Iowa



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