



Early Childhood Iowa  
Monday Musings  
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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](mailto:jeffrey.anderson@iowa.gov)

Back Issues of Monday Musing are available [here](#).

***“Remember there's no such thing as a small act of kindness. Every act creates a ripple with no logical end.”***

***-Scott Adams***

## **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.

### **A New Iowa ACEs report is released - *Beyond ACEs: Building Hope & Resiliency in Iowa*.**

The Central Iowa ACEs 360 Steering Committee has led efforts to research how adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) impact the health and well-being of Iowans.

This newly released 2016 Iowa ACEs report - *Beyond ACEs: Building Hope & Resiliency in Iowa* - examines three years of data collected among Iowa adults measuring eight types of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). Our analysis shows that most Iowa adults have experienced childhood trauma, an indicator of higher rates of chronic diseases, mental illness, violence, risky behaviors, and reduced life expectancy. The report reveals how ACEs impact Iowans across the state. It also showcases emerging opportunities to respond to trauma. The full report can be found at <http://www.iowaaces360.org/iowa-aces-research.html>.

## Federal Information:

### Supporting Young Parents to Help Children Reach their Full Potential

**By Linda K. Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood Development and**

First let me start by saying that as adults we have both a vocation (mine is obvious) and an avocation - something one does in addition to their vocation, but of significant interest to that person. Parent education has been my avocation and throughout the years my volunteer work as a parent educator has helped keep my vocational work “real”.

Decades of research have demonstrated that the parent-child relationship and the family environment are at the foundation of child well-being, including social-emotional and cognitive functioning, school success, and mental and physical health. Child well-being, in turn, is determinative of our future generation’s physical and behavioral health and competitiveness in an evolving world economy. But ensuring that children experience healthy and successful lives does not happen in a vacuum. Parents need reliable and “trusted” sources of information on basic child development, appropriate discipline and parenting.



Two weeks ago, a new study on supporting the parents of young children was released by the National Academies of Science. The study, “Parenting Matters: Supporting Parents of Children Ages 0-8”, was in response to a request from the Administration for Children and Families, in collaboration with the Department of Education and several philanthropic organizations, to study the research on parenting and how to best support the parents of young children.

The report identified a core set of parenting knowledge and practices that are associated with improved child health, development, and learning outcomes. The list started with a knowledge of child development and included: a knowledge of services available to them; a knowledge of parenting practices; understanding of contingent responsiveness (serve and return); showing warmth and sensitivity; the value of schedules and reduced household chaos; reading and talking to children; the use of appropriate discipline; and finally, understanding practices that promote children’s health and safety.

Although none of these are particularly earth shattering, (starting with a knowledge of child development) – information on them is not routinely provided to new parents and if information is provided it is not necessarily in ways that parents want or need it. I have learned two lessons from my work as a parent educator. First, *parents do not innately understand child development*, yet this knowledge is foundational to parenting, and second, *parents learn best from each other* through social networks and support systems that go far beyond what can be learned from a book or a class.

I frequently hear that new parents rely on either their parents or their friends for information. Why --because they trust them. We also know that parents **trust us**, their early care and education providers. They trust us each and every day to care for their children. We ARE (or can be) their “trusted source” for parenting information and support. Head Start has understood this for decades. Now is the time for the rest of the early care and education community to get on board. It’s time to make parenting a core component of all ECE programs and to use the trust between parents and their ECE providers to provide solid information on child development and to foster parenting networks and support systems.

So now, in light of the NAS study, I find myself thinking about how to marry early education policy with parenting. Can early care and education programs support parents (and parenting) in a more intentional and supportive manner? This answer is a resounding, YES. We in early education already value parents. We know they are children’s first, most important, and longest lasting teachers. By providing more support and the tools they need, we can make a lasting impact in their lives and the lives of their children.

Last year, we issued a “Compendium of Parenting Interventions” designed to help early care and education staff select evidence-based parenting interventions. We also published the “Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework: Ages Birth to Five” which is an excellent guide to understanding the timing and sequence of child development and learning. Finally, we published the “Head Start Parent, Family and Community Engagement Framework” which provides strategies to engage parents as lifelong educators of their children. These are only a few of the tools available to help our ECE providers engage parents in meaningful ways. More information is available on our web site at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ecd>. By better supporting parents and families *now*, the youngest children of today and tomorrow have better odds of achieving their full potential. It takes a supportive community and a willing nation to partner with families. It is time to simultaneously recognize parents’ strengths and help meet their unique needs. Although the findings in the NAS study are neither revolutionary nor headliners, the study shrinks and sharpens the message. And it’s our job to now disseminate the practices described in the report far and wide. From the macro level- through broad communication and public education efforts, to the micro level in the work providers do every day helping support families, we can make a difference.

### **Early Childhood Career Pathways**

ACF is pleased to announce a new Policy Statement on Early Childhood Career Pathways as part of our focus on elevating the early childhood workforce in policy and practice.

- A strong body of research ties the knowledge, competencies, stability, diversity, and retention of teachers and program directors directly to the quality of children's development



and learning in out of home programs.

- Career pathways create a sequence of stackable, portable credentials that reflect the sophisticated science of working with young children, combined with the supports educators need to advance their individual career progression on that pathway.
- Career pathways operate on two levels: a systems approach for the workforce at large and an individual approach for each professional seeking advancement.

This policy paper focuses on teachers and program directors, with state and local recommendations.

To read the policy paper and to also see **Iowa's** Interactive Career Pathways site for to: [Career Pathways](#)

## Other Information:

### Sidewalk Chalk Flood Event in Des Moines

Join Community Youth Concepts on August 20<sup>th</sup> for the annual Sidewalk Chalk Flood Event Every at Western Gateway Park in Des Moines. It is a free event for people to come and decorate the sidewalks with chalk art. We also partner with other organizations who host art-based activities for children and youth!

Community Youth Concepts was founded in 2008 by Amy Ostrander Croll and Lynette Marchant. CYC is a mission-driven organization based in Des Moines, Iowa. By promoting the use of positive youth development principles and best practices, CYC provides volunteer service opportunities and career-based mentoring to Iowa youth in order to improve their future success as students, professionals, and active community members.

Here is a link to the event on the CYC website: <http://cyconcepts.org/scf/>.

### 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.iowaaeyc.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!

### **Online Surveys: Can You Trust the Results? (Child Trends)**

The results of online surveys are everywhere—especially leading up to the presidential election. But can they be trusted? Our latest post weighs the pros and cons of this inexpensive, but sometimes problematic, method, and what you should look for in an online survey before swearing by the results.

[Read More](#)

### **Webinar: Suspension and Expulsion in Early Childhood Programs (Preschool Development Grant (PDG))**

More than ten years ago, Dr. Walter Gilliam presented data showing how pervasive suspension and expulsion practices are and the impact these practices have on children and families. Suspension and expulsion in early childhood programs continues to be a reality in the United States. The Departments of Education and Health and Human Services recently published a **joint position statement** on the suspension and expulsion of preschoolers. Additionally, the Preschool Development Grant (PDG) technical assistance team just released a **brief on this topic**.

The PDG Supporting Children with High Needs Community of Practice invites you to this webinar in which Dr. Gilliam will discuss the state of suspension and expulsion in early childhood education settings.

This one-hour webinar will be held on **Thursday, September 8th, at 3:00pm EST**.

**Please register** for this free webinar!

Call-in toll-free number (US/Canada)

1-877-668-4493

Access code: 665 424 165

### **Iowa AEYC Announces a Professional Position Opening**

Early Childhood Consultant position open at the Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children for an Early Childhood Quality Improvement Project Consultant (see attached job description). This full-time position is anticipated to be open by September 1, 2016, and we would to have it filled as soon as possible after that time. The successful candidate will hold a bachelor’s degree or higher in early childhood education or a closely related field, and have successful experience in a child care or prekindergarten program setting. Transportation for travel to child care programs around central Iowa

required. Preferred is specialized training and experience implementing Environmental Rating Systems and Creative Curriculum standards, as well as experience in supervision, mentoring or consulting. Spanish speaker is a plus. Please send a formal letter of application and your resume to Stacey Walter, Iowa AEYC, 5525 Meredith Drive Suite F, Des Moines, IA 50310, or email to [info@iowaaeyc.org](mailto:info@iowaaeyc.org) no later than September 1, 2016.

**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 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

#### **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)