



Early Childhood Iowa Monday Musings March 28, 2016 Vol. 3, No. 13

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](#).

“You are only young once, but you can stay immature indefinitely.”

-Ogden Nash

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.

ECI Equity Webinar: Continuing the Conversation (Friday April 8, 2016 – 10:30 AM - Noon)

Sponsored by ECI Equity Advisory Committee

Last November, the ECI Equity Advisory Committee hosted a one-day event, Early Childhood Iowa Racial Equity Summit, which was designed to promote racial, linguistic and cultural equity across the three ECI settings: Stakeholder Alliance, State Board and local ECI areas. The focus was identifying leadership and policy opportunities that would allow ECI to make a concrete commitment to move toward making

racial equity a strategic priority and engaged diverse stakeholders to be part of the leadership and decision making that is part of that commitment. The result was an exciting and ground-breaking conversation about race, ethnicity early childhood systems building. We want to continue that conversation with a special 90-minute webinar that will build on the work we have started and engage stakeholders, board members and local ECI boards and staff in taking the next steps toward living out a commitment toward racial equity. This webinar will bring you up-to-date on the key points of discussion from the summit, a chance to hear how the summit affected participants and what they are doing with what they learned, and a wider conversation about next step. The webinar is the next important step in carrying forward this important work.

To Join the Webinar on April 8: <https://zoom.us/j/888514900>

Governor Branstad to Sign Week of the Young Child Proclamation

On Thursday, March 31, 2016 at 1:40 PM, Governor Branstad will sign the ***Week of the Young Child*** proclamation in the Governor's Formal Office in the Iowa State Capitol building.

ECI State Board to Meet on April 1, 2016

The next ECI State Board meeting will be Friday, April 1st. Attached is current meeting agenda. Please note that we'll be meeting at 10:00 a.m. at the Iowa Economic Development Authority, located at 200 East Grand, Des Moines.

Agenda Items include:

- Board's Appeal Policy – revisions proposed
- ECI Strategic Plan – Communication Options; Board Involvement
- Core set of Early Childhood Services
- Legislative Issues:
 - SF2299 update
 - FY '17 School Ready Distribution Proposal
- Project Highlight: TEACH and WAGES

You may attend via Webinar:

Please click the link below to register:

<https://zoom.us/webinar/register/98ba89c388691ce166858a512be5123a>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

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.

Earned Income Tax Credit Can Help Rural Families

Thanks to the hard work of Rural Americans, along with record investments in infrastructure under the Recovery Act and the 2014 Farm Bill, over the last seven years America was able to pull itself out of one of the deepest economic recessions since the Great Depression. While we've seen wages rise and unemployment fall in rural areas over the last several years, workers in rural America still receive less hours and earn less pay than those in urban areas. Fortunately, for those who need help making ends meet, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) can help.

To learn more: [EITC](#)

Other Information:

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

3 WAYS TO PROMOTE PREVENTION MONTH

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

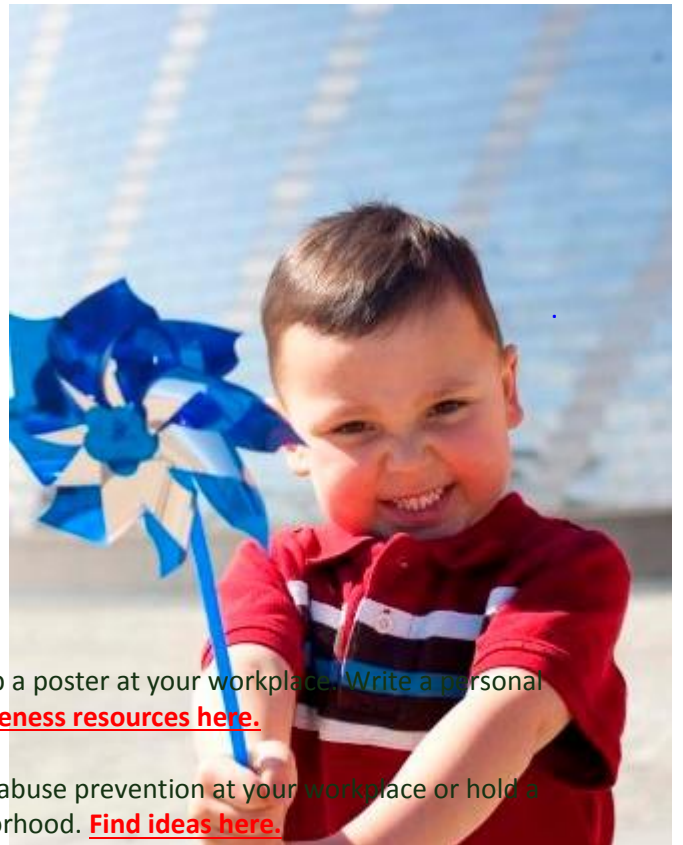
April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, and **Prevent Child Abuse Iowa** is joining states across the nation in encouraging everyone to take action to create great childhoods.

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!



Iowa Head Start Association presents: Motivational Interviewing Event

Motivational Interviewing is an evidence-based practice that helps anyone working with parents and family members to make better decisions and change behavior by facilitating and engaging their intrinsic motivation. This training will introduce participants to the principles and skills of motivational interviewing and related coaching approaches. In this highly interactive training, participants will be guided through a sequence of learning activities that will enhance their conversations with others to be more engaging, rich and meaningful. Learning activities include: real-life demonstrations, video-taped examples, “real-plays”, small group exercises, and participant practice with feedback.

Audience: Health specialists; family support workers.

Cost: \$175 (includes lunch and 3 days of training)

Location Holiday Inn Airport Conference Center, 6111 Fleur Drive, Des Moines, IA 50321

A room block will be available at the hotel. If you are interested in booking a room, you will pay a special rate of \$99 plus taxes, per night. Call 1-800-248-4013 and mention the code [HEA](#) when making your reservation. Reservations must be made three weeks before each date and guaranteed with a credit card. Cancellations can be made up until 6:00 pm on the day of arrival.

Registration Email karen@iowaaeyc.org or register online www.iowaheadstart.com

Space is limited to 60 participants, so please register early.

We will be joined by Motivational Interviewing expert, Rebecca Lang.

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.

The Power of Thinking Like a Preschooler

For many adults, trying to remember what it was like to be a 4-year-old with any accuracy is difficult. Adults often have trouble understanding young children's needs and inner lives—but paying closer attention to the way they experience the world can be valuable. This article presents a transcript of a conversation with Erika Christakis, a child-development specialist at Yale University and author of *The Importance of Being Little: What Preschoolers Really Need From Grownups*. (*The Atlantic*)

Go here to read more: [The Power of Thinking Like a Preschooler](#)

BUILD Webinar: Introduction to the New and Improved Opportunities Exchange Website: The Central Resource for the Shared Services Learning Community (April 12, 2016)

Are you curious about Shared Services in early care and education and want to know more about how it works and who is involved? Are you already engaged in Shared Services and interested in finding tools and resources to help strengthen or expand your work? This webinar is designed to teach you how to find answers to those questions, and more.

To Register: [Introduction to the New and Improved Opportunities Exchange Website: The Central Resource for the Shared Services Learning Community](#)

Lessons from Flint: The Case for Investing in the Building Blocks of Communities of Color

Flint—a once-prosperous city and the birthplace of General Motors—has lost its industrial base over the past few decades, driving an economic decline that has reduced government investment in all forms of infrastructure, including support for the city's schools. More than 40 percent of Flint residents, 56 percent of whom are African American, now live below the federal poverty level. While Flint's lead poisoning epidemic may be unique, public divestment in poor communities of color is not: Far too often, people of color are relegated to living in the country's most underinvested areas.

[Read More Here](#)

Development of Boys and Young Men of Color: Implications of Developmental Science for My Brother's Keeper Initiative

An abiding belief in American society is in the ideal that everyone should have a fair chance at success in life, regardless of origin, upbringing, race, gender, or ethnicity. A primary reflection of this value is in President Obama's My Brother's Keeper Initiative, which has the purpose of activating and coordinating federal, state, and private efforts that may improve the life outcomes of boys and young men of color. In this report, the authors describe this ambitious initiative and draw from developmental science to elaborate on several feature elements." To read more: [Social Policy Report](#)

RAND Institute Report on Cincinnati

This week the RAND Corporation [released a report](#) conducted to inform people in Cincinnati about the potential payoffs to investments in preschool. They addressed two questions. (1) Do high-quality preschool programs produce favorable effects for participating children and their families, what are the magnitudes of the impacts, and how long do the beneficial effects last? (2) Is there evidence of a positive return on investment when public dollars are used to pay for such programs? Anyone looking for an assessment of research on large-scale public programs as it relates to these two questions will find it worth reading.

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**.

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

April 1

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)