



Early Childhood Iowa Monday Musings May 2, 2016 Vol. 3, No. 17

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 House on April 28, 2016 and is ready for the Governor’s signature.

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.

Other Information:

Worthy Wage Week

Across the country, child care teachers and providers celebrate Worthy Wage Day annually on May 1. With May 1 falling on a weekend this year, the Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children and the Child Care WAGES® IOWA Program have designated the week of May 1-7 as Worthy Wage Week.

Worthy Wage Day began in 1992 as a group of early childhood teachers organized at a grassroots level in order to advocate for higher wages. Unfortunately, the average wages for early childhood professionals today hasn't changed much since 1992, so we are still on the battlefield to raise public awareness about the problems these teachers face. Worthy Wage Day suggests policy makers, community members, stakeholders, and decision makers "job shadow" in an early childhood classroom for a morning.

Marcy Whitebook, (1999) a researcher and advocate for early childhood work environment conditions, states that child care workers' status is reflected in poverty-level earnings, poor benefits, unequal opportunity, and high turnover. She interestingly stated this in 1999, but the same is true seventeen years later. Many early childhood teachers today rely on federally funded programs to pay their bills, seek medical attention, and even feed their families. In their most recent work, Whitebook, Phillips, & Howes (2014) state that 46% of early childhood workers on a national scale rely on food stamps and welfare for support. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? For every child's teacher in his or her life between the ages of 0-5, half of them rely on government programs in order to survive.

What can YOU do this week?

If you are a parent of a young child in preschool or child care:

- Thank your child care teacher/provider/program – maybe with a bonus! Learn more about their salaries, benefits, and working conditions.
- Ask your child's preschool, Head Start, or child care program about their educational requirements for the teaching staff.

If you are an administrator/owner of an early care and education program:

- Invite the mayor and other city leaders, your elected officials from the Iowa Legislature, and others to visit your program, shadow your teaching staff, and learn more about what it takes to provide quality care for a group of young children.

- Celebrate and honor your teaching staff this week. Consider ways you can improve the salaries, benefits, and working conditions for your teaching staff, perhaps by making different priorities with the funds available.

If you are a community member who cares about young children – tomorrow’s Iowa workforce and future leaders – and want to learn more:

- Reach out to the early care and education programs in your community to see how you might be able to help (contribute, volunteer, or just gain awareness of the important work they do).
- VOTE!

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)*

Suds and Stories

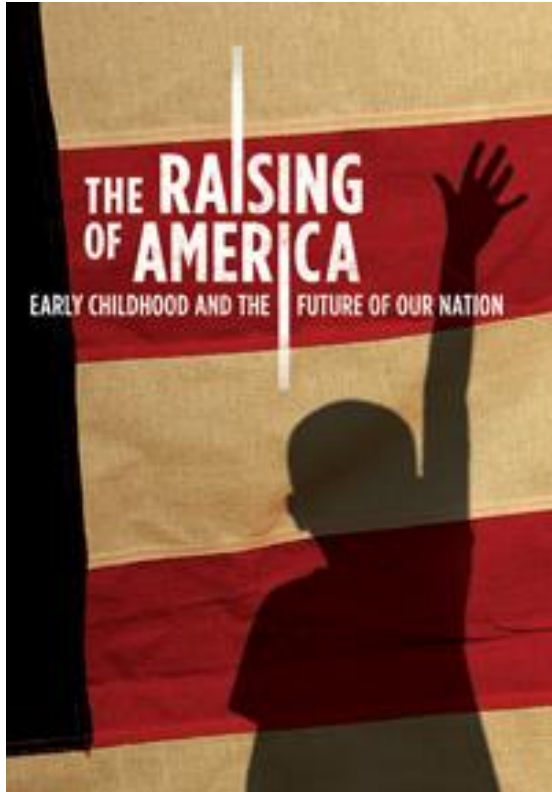
Laundromats can be boring places for kids, except in Moore County, North Carolina since 2014.

The North Carolina Southern Pines/Sandhills Branch of American Association of University Women (AAUW), an international organization known for empowering women since 1881, has been providing books to children in the community in three locations – two of which are laundromats. Branch President, Dr. Christine Ganis, a psychologist, saw an opportunity in a local laundromat when children had nothing to do. Most of them were whining that they were bored, or were pushing each other in carts, to the annoyance of customers. Ganis thought, “If these kids had age-appropriate books to read, and could even keep them if they liked the subject, all the better.” So the branch started a pilot project, using consignment books and small donations to fuel their efforts.

The Moore County Literacy Council provided bilingual signage and committed volunteers replenished

book baskets. Sandhills Pediatrics encouraged their patient families to donate books to a basket in their waiting areas, while their newsletter promoted the project. In the last two years, AAUW has given 4,000 books to young readers in their community. Laundry staff now report some kids even ask to stop by the laundromat for a book. Maybe a homework nook could be next!

At the national level, [Too Small to Fail](#) partners with the Coin Laundry Association and others to offer information and tools for parents to turn laundry time into learning opportunities with their children.



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**

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**](#)

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/**](http://www.earlychildhoodiowa.org/)

To join the ECI Stakeholders, please complete the commitment survey at:

[**https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FSXR5F2**](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)