



Early Childhood Iowa Monday Musings September 11, 2017 Vol. 4, No. 26

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](#).

“If we learn nothing else from this tragedy, we learn that life is short and there is no time for hate.”

—Sandy Dahl, wife of Flight 93 pilot Jason Dahl, in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, in 2002

State Information

Invitation: ECI Stakeholders Alliance meeting – September 12, 2017

The next ECI Stakeholders Alliance meeting is set for September 12, 2017

Details:

9:00 AM – 11:45 AM

Fred Maytag II Scout Center

6123 Scout Trail

Des Moines, Iowa



Topics (See Attached Agenda for more information):

- Annual Election of Steering Committee Members
- Upcoming 20 Year Anniversary for Empowerment/ECI
- World Café of Early Childhood Projects
- Open Mic

To Register: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/K9KQC97>

In Addition:

Iowa AEYC would like to invite you to a lunch (provided) discussion about improving child care compensation! They will share updates from the child care workforce study, the work of the ‘Moving the Needle on Compensation’ project, and the National Governor’s Association (NGA) grant policy audit. Attendees will be engaged in discussions to provide feedback on next steps and how your local area or organization can be engaged in these efforts.

To RSVP for the lunch: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/K9MT8DH>

Third draft of Iowa's ESSA plan released for public review Iowans invited to comment through September 11; plan will be final next month

Iowa Department of Education Director Ryan Wise has announced that the [third draft of Iowa's state plan](#) for meeting the federal **Every Student Succeeds Act** is available for public review and comment. Iowa's plan will be finalized and submitted to the U.S. Department of Education in September. "Iowa has several collaborative education improvement efforts underway, each with a goal of preparing students for success in high school and beyond, and the Every Student Succeeds Act is an opportunity to connect and build on those efforts," Wise said. "We've made great strides in designing a plan that makes sense for our state, and this is a final opportunity for Iowans to review this plan."

[Read a snapshot of the plan here.](#)

ESSA is a reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. This update replaces the No Child Left Behind Act. Under ESSA, Iowa and other states must develop state plans that address student assessments, school accountability, funding, and support for struggling schools.

The third draft released today incorporates feedback on the second draft, released in June. The third draft includes the following changes to an accountability index, or series of measures that will be used to identify schools in need of improvement (see pages ix and x for a complete summary of plan revisions):

- A postsecondary readiness measure will remain part of the accountability index, but Iowa needs time to develop the right measure. Accordingly, the Department will convene a work group during the 2017-18 school year to develop a postsecondary readiness measure to be phased in starting in the 2018-19 school year.
- A measure of school climate and culture, called conditions for learning, will carry a smaller weight in the accountability index (5 percent) during the 2017-18 school year while the measure is fully developed. This measure relies on surveys of students, school employees and parents -- as well as data such as student suspensions -- to measure a school's safety, engagement and environment.

In developing the draft ESSA plan, department leaders have sought input through 18 public forums statewide, an advisory committee, focus groups, education work teams, and written comments. A final state plan will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education by September 18. The plan will be revised and updated in years to come.

Iowans are invited to give feedback on the third draft in [an online feedback survey](#), which is open through September 11.

Feedback also can be submitted via email at ESSA@iowa.gov or by mail: Iowa Department of Education, Attn: Deputy Director David Tilly/ESSA Feedback, Grimes State Office Building, 400 E. 14th St., Des Moines, IA 50319-0146

For more information on the Every Student Succeeds Act in Iowa, visit the Iowa Department of Education's [website](#).

Virtual Home Visitor Program is Launched

Iowa Department of Public Health has launched a virtual home visitor system, **Parentivity**, that any Iowa parent may access at no cost. It was developed with by IDPH with Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visitation (MIECHV) funds.

Parentivity is full of ideas and information to assist new parents to create the wonderful, stimulating environment where their child can grow and thrive. **Parentivity** provides parents with the right information at the right time based on the unique needs of each child:

Key Points:

- It can be accessed on a computer, tablet or hand-held device
- It is available now to any parent in Iowa at no cost!
- It has evidence-based content developed by leading experts

Check it out for yourself at www.Parentivity.org and share it parents you know.

September is National PREPAREDNESS Month

As we've seen recently from the countless news stories and pictures of the damages caused by Hurricanes Harvey on the Texas gulf coast and Irma in the Caribbean and Florida, disasters have a significant impact on children, families, businesses and communities.

September is National PREPAREDNESS Month. The theme for this year is, "**Disasters Don't Plan Ahead. You Can.**" Encourage families you work with to do three simple steps to be better prepared:

- Make a family emergency plan
- Build an emergency supply kit
- Become more aware of the local hazards that may impact their community (flooding, tornadoes, chemicals, etc.)

Emergency planning resources for families are available on the Ready Iowa website. www.beready.iowa.gov

Federal Information:

Family Engagement Simulation

Parent, family, and community engagement simulation: Boosting school readiness through an effective family engagement series

What you do and say matters! Explore and practice everyday strategies to develop positive goal-oriented relationships with a family. These relationships are key to our work with children and families, including the journey toward school readiness. See a [new simulation](#) on *Talking with Families about Developmental Concerns*.

- Simulation 1 allows you to practice building bonds with families, beginning with an intake visit.
- Simulation 2 explores the process of developing and implementing goals with families.
- Simulation 3 explores using strengths-based attitudes to partner with families during challenging times.
- Simulation 4 helps you talk with families about developmental concerns.

SCBC Infant/Toddler Specialist Network Hot Topic Webinars

The **Child Care State Capacity Building Center (SCBC) Infant/Toddler Specialist Network** will host a series of 1-hour *Hot Topic Webinars* on the 3rd Wednesday of each month beginning on July 19 and running through December 20, 2017. Each webinar will be held from 1:30–2:30 p.m. Eastern Time (ET).

Descriptions of the scheduled topics are as follows.

- **Infant/Toddler Community of Practice: Sharing Initiatives From the Field**
This webinar will provide an opportunity for six States to share exciting infant/toddler initiatives that support quality, access, and supply-building. Learn the benefits of participating in a community of practice and connect with State peers.
Date and time: Wednesday, September 20, 2017, 1:30–2:30 p.m. ET
Register: <https://ccssn.adobeconnect.com/communityofpractice/event/registration.html>
- **State Strategies for Infant/Toddler Supply-Building**
This webinar will support States and Territories in identifying multiple strategies for building a supply of quality infant and toddler care, specifically in high-need areas.
Date and time: Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 1:30–2:30 p.m. ET
Register: <https://ccssn.adobeconnect.com/statestrategies/event/registration.html>
- **Infant/Toddler Mental Health: An Interdisciplinary Approach**
This webinar will provide a national overview of States' infant early childhood mental health (I-ECMH) systems-building efforts. The essential building blocks of an I-ECMH system will be presented, along with State examples, promising practices, trends, and innovations.
Date and time: Wednesday, November 15, 2017, 1:30–2:30 p.m. ET
Register: <https://ccssn.adobeconnect.com/mentalhealth/event/registration.html>
- **Six Essential Practices for Quality Infant/Toddler Care**
This webinar will explore six essential practices for high-quality infant/toddler care. Learn the basics of continuity of care, primary care, small groups, individualized care, inclusion, and cultural responsiveness. Resources for additional information will also be shared.
Date and time: Wednesday, December 20, 2017, 1:30–2:30 p.m. ET
Register: <https://ccssn.adobeconnect.com/sixessentialpractices/event/registration.html>

Talk, Read, and Sing Together Every Day!

Research has found that providing children from birth to five with consistent, language-rich experiences—such as talking, reading, and singing—can have important benefits on their brain development and future school success. However, many families lack access to the types of resources that can help them make the most of these language building experiences. This creates a gap in the quantity and quality of words that children learn, which directly impacts their opportunities to succeed in school and later in life. These tip sheets, available in English and Spanish, have been designed specifically for families, caregivers, and early educators. They can help enrich a child's early language experiences by providing research-based tips for talking, reading, and singing with young children every day beginning from birth. Sample topics include *It's Never Too Early to Help Your Child Learn – Talk, Read, and Sing Together Every Day*, *Tips for Using Language at Home and in the Community*, and *The Benefits of Being Bilingual*. <https://www.ed.gov/early-learning/talk-read-sing>

Other Information:

Position Paper on Challenging Behavior

CEELO this week shared a position statement from the Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children addressing the significance of healthy social-emotional competence and providing guidance to practitioners, teachers, and families in preventing and effectively responding to challenging behaviors.

To Read the Paper: https://media.wix.com/ugd/e37417_34cb112472564b63b1d099556fcc23ec.pdf

Parent Engagement Practices Improve Outcomes for Preschool Children

This [research brief](#) made available by the *Robert Wood Johnson Foundation* is one of a series of briefs on research, practice and policy relating to social and emotional learning. This brief focuses on parent engagement models that have been found to improve school readiness outcomes.

Providing parents with support and guidance in the use of home learning materials and warm, responsive parenting skills, while also providing opportunities for parents to get involved at school, using conferences and/or home visits to support parent-teacher communication and collaboration are keys elements, the report states. Evidence also suggests effective parent engagement must be intensive and strategic, considerably longer and more involved than the kinds of parent engagement practices that are widespread in preschools now.

Do-It-Yourself (DIY) Non-Toys for Toddlers

Here are 15 DIY non-toys for toddlers that are simple to make and engaging to play with! Sensory play, fine motor skills, cause and effect, curiosity, language, and investigation skills will be encouraged through these non-toys, and most are costfree to put together. Discover your options at

<http://theimaginationtree.com/tag/toddler-play>

Prevent Child Abuse Iowa Needs Input for Needs Assessment



Prevent Child Abuse Iowa is working with the Iowa Department of Human Services and our partners Hornby Zeller Associates, Inc. to conduct a needs assessment and develop a strategic plan for child maltreatment prevention efforts. As part of the process, we are administering an anonymous survey to obtain input from citizens across the state. Please participate by clicking on the link below and completing the survey. It should not take long and your perspectives are invaluable.

Responses are needed by **September 15, 2017**.

To participate in the survey: [Child Abuse Iowa Needs Assessment Survey](#)

The Smart Start (North Carolina) Resource Guide of Evidence-Based and Evidence-Informed Programs and Practices

“Across the nation there is an increasing focus on the use of evidence-based practices.[1] This movement is across federal agencies such as the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA),[2] and the Department of Education,[3] as well as across various fields such as medicine, mental health, and early childhood[4-6]. Research and practice in the field of early childhood are growing to help professionals provide the best services possible to produce real change.

“This guide is intended to provide the research evidence for programs and practices most commonly funded by Smart Start partnerships and primary evidence-based early childhood programs.

“Although this is not a “how-to” guide for doing community planning and systems building, program development, program implementation, and evaluation, these are essential elements for successful services.”

To View the Guide: [Resource Guide of Evidence-Based and Evidence-Informed Programs and Practices](#)



Child Care Grant and Proposal Writing Workshops

A First Children's Finance Child Care Business Management Workshop

Child care center directors, owners, and board members! Join us for a hands-on day with First Children's Finance, learning new ways to reach out and touch your partners, stakeholders and funders through excellent grant applications and funding proposals.

This 6-hour workshop is designed for all levels, from beginners to those who would like to take a fresh look. Come with ideas of what your child care program needs and let *First Children's Finance's* experienced staff assist you in developing your ideas and proposal. Plan to leave this seminar equipped with ideas, tools and a great start to succeed in your next funding opportunity.

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About this Training

Credit Hours

Provides 6 hours of Iowa DHS training credit and NAC renewal hours.

Target Audience

Directors, owners or board members of child care centers or preschools.

Training Level

Level 1 (Beginner), Level 2 (Skilled) and Level 3 (Mastery)

Content Area

5- Strategies to manage an effective program operation.

Registration

\$45 per person (lunch included). You will receive an email confirmation within one week of registering that will include payment information.

Additional funding support is provided by Northwest Area Foundation and Iowa Department of Human Services.

**What Past Attendees have to say:**

Child Care Grant & Proposal Writing provided me with clarity, courage and the ability to communicate with a powerful message. I am very excited to pursue my new skills to better Baxter Early Learning Center! -Tiffany Finch

Seeking resources for child development services is overwhelming, but this program outlined it so well it seems doable! -Allison Pattee

I came to this course hoping to walk away with one nugget of information. I walked away with six hours worth of nuggets. -Tammy Rasmussen, Halley's Academy

New Dates and Locations**Des Moines Metro- [Register here](#)**

September 21, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Prairie Meadows Events and Conference Center

Altoona, IA

This session is being held as a Pre-Institute Workshop in conjunction with the Iowa Early Care and Education Fall Institute. Early bird registration rates are available until August!

[MORE INFORMATION/REGISTER](#)**Or Contact:**

Angie Rae Duncan, Senior Business Development Specialist

Angie@FirstChildrensFinance.org or (515) 229-5064

You Can Still Register for the Early Care and Education Fall Institute and Book your Hotel Room On –line

Iowa AEYC is pleased to announce registration is now open for the Iowa Early Care & Education Fall Institute, **Power to the Profession**.



Iowa Association for the
Education of Young Children

The early bird registration deadline is quickly approaching! Register before Friday, September 1 to save an average of nearly 40% of your Institute registration fee. Visit our website to fill out **[our paper form, group registration form](#)**, or to **[register online](#)**! Don't forget to remind your friends!

We are pleased to have the **graduate credit** option available again this year through Northwestern College. View page 9 of our **[registration book](#)** to learn more. To register, visit: **<https://online.nwciowa.edu/iaeyc/register>**

The link to book a hotel room under our block at the Prairie Meadows Hotel has also been added.

Is subsidized childcare associated with lower risk of grade retention for low-income children?: Evidence from Child Care and Development Fund administrative records linked to the American Community Survey

This study investigates whether low-income young children's experience of Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)-subsidized childcare is associated with a lower subsequent likelihood of being held back in grades K-12. High-quality childcare has been shown to improve low-income children's school readiness. However, no previous study has examined the link specifically between subsidized care and grade retention. I do so here by matching information on children from CCDF administrative records to later observations of the same children in the American Community Survey (ACS). I use logistic regression to compare the likelihood of grade retention between CCDF-recipient children and non-recipient children who also appear in the ACS in the years 2008-2014 (N=2,284,857). I find strong evidence for an association between CCDF-subsidized care and lower risk of grade retention, especially among non-Hispanic Black children and Hispanic children. I also find evidence that receiving CCDF-subsidized center-based care in particular is associated with a lower risk of being held back than CCDF-subsidized family daycare, babysitter care, or relative care, again with the largest apparent benefit to non-Hispanic Black children and Hispanic children. (author abstract)

To Read More: **[CCDF Association with Risk of Grade Retention](#)**

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>



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September 11, 2017
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2017 ECI Meeting Calendar:

ECI State Board

10:00 – 1:00

November 3

ECI Stakeholders Alliance

3 – 4 Hour meetings

September 12 (AM)

December 12 (PM)

ECI Area Directors

(June will be regional meetings)

September 12 (afternoon)

December 6 All day

ECI Steering Committee

Time Varies

October 5 (9:00 AM – Noon)

November 2 (9:00 AM – Noon)