



## Early Childhood Iowa Monday Musings September 18, 2017 Vol. 4, No. 27

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](#).

***“Allow children to be happy in their own way, for what better way will they find?”***

-Samuel Johnson (September 18, 1709 – December 13, 1784)

### State Information

#### **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](http://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](http://www.beready.iowa.gov)

## Federal Information:

### Federal Office of Inspector General (OIG) Releases Survey to Child Care Providers

The Office of Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is conducting a study on the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) subsidy program, a Federal-State partnership that provides eligible, low-income families with help paying for child care. States may operate their CCDF subsidy programs at the local or County level, and refer to the programs by different names, which may not include the term “CCDF.” For this study, we are examining the adequacy of States’ subsidy payment rates and how these rates compare to prices charged by child care providers.

1,000 providers have randomly been selected from a list of child care providers across the country to assist with this important study by completing a survey on child care services. The survey questions focus on descriptive information about your child care program, your charges for care, and your experiences with your States’ CCDF subsidy program, if applicable. Please be assured that no individual child care providers will be named in our study report. Answers will be combined with other responses to the survey to provide valuable information to improve the CCDF program.

### 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>

## 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](https://media.wix.com/ugd/e37417_34cb112472564b63b1d099556fcc23ec.pdf)

### Promising Snapshot: High-Hispanic serving ECE centers fare well on indicators of quality

A [\*new brief\*](#) from the *National Research Center on Hispanic Children and Families* (NRCHCF) has found that early care and education (ECE) centers serving high proportions of Hispanic kids measure as well—if not better— than their counterparts on key indicators of quality. These ECE centers reported more curriculum use, support services, and specialists on staff.

Read the brief to see what works to make these centers high-quality places of learning.

### **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 Seeks 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 22, 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](mailto:Angie@FirstChildrensFinance.org) or (515) 229-5064

### You Can Still Register for the Early Care and Education Fall

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

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>

### 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>

### **2017 ECI Meeting Calendar:**

#### **ECI State Board**

10:00 – 1:00

November 3

#### **ECI Stakeholders Alliance**

3 – 4 Hour meetings

December 12 (PM)

#### **ECI Area Directors**

(June will be regional meetings)

December 6 All day

#### **ECI Steering Committee**

Time Varies

October 5 (9:00 AM – Noon)

November 2 (9:00 AM – Noon)