



Early Childhood Iowa Monday Musings October 9, 2017 Vol. 4, No. 30

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](#).

*"I think at a child's birth, if a mother could ask a fairy godmother to endow it with the most useful gift, that gift should be curiosity."
-Eleanor Roosevelt*

State Information

CPPC Fall Statewide Learning Network Convening

We at Community Partnerships for Protecting Children (CPPC) are excited to announce our Fall Statewide Learning Network Convening. This **November 2nd**, we'll deviate from our usual format of a keynote and several small breakout sessions to feature Doyin Richards. He's a father doing primary care of his daughters. Before leaving the corporate world, he did Instructional Design. He now does a Dads blog, writes children's books, and does speaking across the nation. See his bio on the attached flyer for more information on Doyin and the day's agenda.

The event will be held at the Holiday Inn Merle Hay in Des Moines. Please feel free to share this information widely. We look forward to seeing you November 2!

To Register: [CPPC Fall Conference](#)

For More Information:

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CPPC Specialist

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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.

Are there exciting and innovative programs going on in your school related to family and school partnerships?

Would you like to be recognized by the Iowa Department of Education for these programs?

As part of the continuous improvement and Specially Designed Instruction (SDI) initiative, the Department is requesting applications for recognition of "promising practices" in the area of family and school partnerships which include children and youth with disabilities and their families, ages three to twenty-one. The purposes for this search include the following:

- ★ to increase the awareness and highlight the importance of family and school partnerships – a key cornerstone to effective schools;
- ★ to recognize settings that are implementing promising practices in family and school partnerships leading to increased student achievement and school improvement; and,
- ★ to further inform continuous improvement and Specially Designed Instruction (SDI) across the state as we develop training and technical assistance efforts in this area.

A "promising practice" could be a program, activity, service, strategy, or policy that shows potential (or 'promise') for developing into an exemplary or evidence-based practice. Promising practices may be those in the earlier stages of development or implementation. Applications should address a practice that promotes positive partnerships between families and schools. Services described must demonstrate the application of a promising practice and go above and beyond the minimum requirements of IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act).

Programs serving students ages 3 to 21 are eligible including those in early childhood, elementary, middle/junior high school, and/or secondary settings. Similar to the terms used by SDI, we will refer to students as learners. Submissions must include learners with an Individual Education Program (IEP), include a special educator, and be linked to a public school (local education agency). Linkages with general education and your Area Education Agency (AEA) are encouraged and the application must include a signature from a supervisor such as the building principal or special education director.

To find out more about this search and supporting documents, please go to

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScLqvE9X3ISq92EqPY2HbVivtMy4m_FPtVw1s0nvMGIJhf_aQw/viewform

If you have questions, please contact Kim Drew, Family and Educator Partnership Consultant (kim.drew@iowa.gov) or Deb Chiodo, Family and School Partnership Project Coordinator, ASK Resource (deb@askresource.org).

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.

National Cybersecurity Awareness Month

October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month which is an annual campaign to raise awareness about the importance of cybersecurity. The Internet touches almost all aspects of everyone's daily life, whether we realize it or not. National Cyber Security Awareness Month (NCSAM) is designed to engage and educate public and private sector partners through events and initiatives to raise awareness about the importance of cybersecurity, provide them with tools and resources needed to stay safe online, and increase the resiliency of the Nation in the event of a cyber incident.

Cyber criminals do not discriminate; they target vulnerable computer systems regardless of whether they are part of a large corporation, a small business, or belong to a home user. Cybersecurity is a shared responsibility in which all Americans have a role to play. The [Stop.Think.Connect.](#) Toolkit provides resources for all segments of the community.

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.

- 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:

Creating a Positive Classroom Pre-K through 6th grade

October 24, 2017

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Vogel Community Room, DeWitt Library Northwestern College

Free Attendance

Credit Available (License Renewal: \$95; Graduate: \$150)



Sanford Harmony Training

By attending this training, teachers, counselors and school personnel will be equipped with the information, strategies, and resources to facilitate Harmony training and coaching at their own schools or district.

Sanford Harmony, a research-based, highly effective teaching strategy that strengthens classroom communities by helping each child understand and appreciate diversity in others. By breaking down barriers, Sanford Harmony enables students to connect and collaborate at much deeper levels.

The workshop will include the screening and discussion of *Resilience: The Biology of Stress & the Science of Hope*. The original research was controversial, but the findings revealed the most important public health findings of a generation.

Resilience is a 1-hour documentary that delves into the science of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and the birth of a new movement to treat and prevent toxic stress. Extremely stressful experiences in childhood can alter brain development and have lifelong effects on health and behavior.

For more information or to Register: <http://online.nwciowa.edu/positive-classroom>

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.

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](#)

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](#)

Do You Ever Stop To Look At Your Smart Phone?

When you spend time with your children, eating, playing, helping with homework, completing household chores, or just having a conversation--do you ever stop and look at your smart phone? If you do, you might want to stop. That finding comes from a recent study of 170 two-parent households, where both parents filled out surveys about their daily interactions with their kids. Researchers found a connection between parents who stopped to interact with devices such as phones, tablets, or laptops during time with their children and those children's behavioral problems, including hyperactivity, whining, and tantrums. Learn more at <https://www.inc.com/minda-zetlin/want-emotionally-healthy-kids-science-says-stop-doingthis-most-parents-wont.html?cid=nl029week25day19>

Small Children Have Big Feelings

When you talk, read, and sing with a child in sensitive, loving, and responsive ways, you build their brain and help them develop the social-emotional skills they need to succeed in school and life. Check out these videos with tips for understanding and managing a child's behavior, and taking care of yourself during the challenging moments, too! <http://talkingisteaching.org/big-feelings> (English)
<http://talkingisteaching.org/grandes-emociones> (Spanish)

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 Calendar

ECI State Board

10:00 – 1:00

November 3

ECI Stakeholders Alliance

3 – 4 Hour meetings

December 12 (PM)

ECI Area Directors

December 6 All day

ECI Steering Committee

Time Varies

November 2 (9:00 AM – Noon)

2018 ECI Calendar

ECI State Board

10:00 – 1:00

January 5 (Grimes B100)

April 6

June 1 (Grimes B100)

September 7 (Grimes B100)

November 2 (Grimes B100)

ECI Stakeholders Alliance

3 – 4 Hour meetings

February 13 (AM)

May 8 (PM)

September 11 (AM)

December 11 (PM)

ECI Area Directors

February 14th webinar (9-10:30)

April 25 All day face to face

June 12th webinar (9-10:30)

September 12th webinar (9-10:30)

October 10th All day face to face

December 5th All day face to face

ECI Steering Committee

Time Varies

January 4 (9:00 AM – Noon)

March 1 (9:00 – 4:00 PM)

April 5 (9:00 AM – Noon)

Early Childhood Iowa Day on the Hill

March 19 – 11:30 – 3:00