



## Early Childhood Iowa Monday Musings October 16, 2017 Vol. 4, No. 31

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](#).

*"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

#### 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 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.

#### 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\\_FPtVw1s0nvMGIJhfaQw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScLqvE9X3ISq92EqPY2HbVivtMy4m_FPtVw1s0nvMGIJhfaQw/viewform)

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

### **Racial Equity Matters: Resources and Information (Frank Porter Graham)**

Co-chaired this year by [Betsy Ayankoya](#) and [Allison De Marco](#), FPG's longstanding Race, Culture, and Ethnicity Committee elevates awareness, promotes dialogue, and facilitates a positive work climate, while fostering the development of culturally attuned and culturally relevant work. Members of the committee have joined other FPG strategic groups to strengthen collaborations, and the committee has held recent workshops on the impact of implicit bias on decision-making, recognizing the need for cultural competence, anti-harassment bystander training, and more.

#### **New Infographic: Racial Inequities in School Discipline**

Black students, especially boys are disproportionately more likely than their white peers to face multiple suspensions from preschool.

#### **Racial (In)Equity: An Infographic**

This infographic is the first in the committee's series on racial inequity and what we can do about it.

#### **A Brief Primer on Racial Equity**

"We are thinking about racial equity as one part of racial justice, and thus we also include work to address root causes of inequities, not just their manifestation..."



## **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](#)

## **‘Sesame Street’ Characters Are Now Teaching Kids How To Cope With Trauma**

***The video series was launched days after the Las Vegas massacre.***

The video series is part of a [wider Sesame Workshop initiative](#) — which includes free online reading materials, games and activities in both Spanish and English — aimed at equipping children, caregivers and social workers with tools to help kids overcome traumatic experiences.

The project was [launched](#) days after the massacre in Las Vegas, the [deadliest mass shooting in modern American history](#). It was released the same day that new federal survey was published showing how [almost half of all American children under age 18](#) have encountered at least one adverse childhood experience, or ACE, in their lifetime. ACEs are defined as stressful or traumatic events, and can include physical or emotional violence, poverty, natural disasters and terrorism.

ACEs have been linked to [“risky health behaviors, chronic health conditions, low life potential and early death,”](#) according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC describes early experiences of children as “an important public health issue.”

Several psychologists, educators and ACE experts are listed as advisers to the Sesame Workshop initiative. One of them — Ann Thomas, CEO of The Children’s Place in Kansas — told NPR last week that she hopes the materials will help create a “sense of safety, consistency and predictability” for kids who are feeling scared and under stress, and will also empower adults to connect better with children experiencing trauma.

“I think one of the [biggest values of this material is as a bridge for adults](#) to take grownup issues and put them in developmentally appropriate words to help children heal,” Thomas said. “When it’s your child, you don’t want them to hurt. Sometimes we want to say, ‘get over it.’ It’s hard to be with a child in that pain.”

*Learn more about the “Traumatic Experiences” initiative [on the “Sesame Street in Communities” website here.](#)*

### **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 14<sup>th</sup> webinar (9-10:30)

April 25 All day face to face

June 12<sup>th</sup> webinar (9-10:30)

September 12<sup>th</sup> webinar (9-10:30)

October 10<sup>th</sup> All day face to face

December 5<sup>th</sup> 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