

Partnerships 4 Families Early Childhood Iowa Area for Audubon, Carroll, Greene and Guthrie Counties

Early Childhood Iowa

An initiative to empower individuals and their communities to achieve desired results to improve the quality of life for children ages birth-5 years of age and their families.

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Week of the Young Child April 24-28

The Week of the Young Child™ is an annual celebration hosted by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) celebrating early learning, young children, their teachers and families.

Child care providers, preschools and libraries in our area gear up for this week all year long. But others can get involved.

NAEYC has developed an ongoing theme for Week

of the Young Child at includes:

Music Monday

Tasty Tuesday

Work Together Wednesday

Artsy Thursday

Family Friday

For more information check out the NAEYC Website at:

<https://www.naeyc.org/woyc>



2017 Legislative Session Still in Session

As we near the end of the legislative session it is important to stay informed so we are running this information again:

There are many ways to follow the session including listening to the debates as they happen on the floor from the convenience of your computer.

<https://www.legis.iow>

a.gov/ has a link to listen in or ever stream the session. Say you have a certain bill you want to hear what is happening. Then you need to follow the Tentative Debate calendar or find the bill you are tracking. This is something you would have to do daily.

Take time to know

what your elected officials encounter on a day to day basis during session.

Also sign up for advocacy newsletters such as Every Child Counts you can sign up on their website at www.cfpiowa.org



"Every child beginning at birth will be healthy and successful."

Community Human Resource Coalitions

Community coalition meetings are intentional meetings of human service providers and community members gathering to network for the benefit of the people they serve. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Audubon County meets at 11:30 AM on the 2nd Wednesday of the month in January, April, June & October at the ISU Extension meeting room in Audubon. Their next meeting is: **Wednesday April 12th at 11:30.**

Carroll County meets at noon on the third Wednesday of the month at ISU Extensions Meeting Room in Carroll. Their next meeting is: **Wednesday April 19th at Noon**

Greene County meets on the first Tuesday of the month at noon at ISU Extension in Jefferson. They do take July & August off. Their next meeting is: **Tuesday April 4th at Noon.**

Guthrie County meets at noon four times a year in March, June, September and December on the second Thursday of the month at the ISU Extension meeting room in Guthrie Center. Their next meeting is: **Thursday June 8th at noon.**

The successes of the meetings are driven by the people attending and the connections that are developed.

Preschool and Head Start Round Ups

Parents are asking, how do I sign my child up for preschool or Head Start? The best answer is to call your local school district or check out their websites. If you are an early childhood provider be sharing this information with families you serve.

Many districts have started enrollment while others will be doing it in the weeks ahead.

Families whose income falls below 100% of the FPL are also eligible to sign up for Head Start. Often a child eligible for Head Start can attend both Head Start and SWVPP for an all-day program. Families interested in Head Start should contact 712-792-9266 Ext 400 if they don't know who the local Family Advocate is.

Three years olds whose parents are interested in

a preschool program should refer to the early childhood brochures offered by P4F on their website. A listing of area preschools is included in each county brochure. Parents are also welcome to contact P4F at p4fchildren@gmail.com for more information.

P4F Board Update

The P4F Board did not meet in March. They will begin recruitment of new board members for three positions that will begin in July. If you know of someone interested please

contact a board member or Cindy.

The next P4F Board meeting is:

April 21, 2017

At 10:30 in Carroll at New Opportunities

All meetings are open to the public. Board minutes can be found on the P4F Website.

Partnerships 4 Families

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Person in the Spot Lite- Amy H

A big shout out to Amy Hanken with Heartland AEA!! Amy helped develop the literacy nights that P4F is promoting at local schools this fall.

Amy is the Early Childhood Special Education Consultant for 0-5 and serves the Carroll, Glidden and Coon Rapids Districts. She is a

huge asset to our Early Childhood Area and the families she serves. Amy and her husband have little girl.

P4F RFP Released March 1, 2017

Partnerships 4 Families will release their application for FY18 funding on March 1, 2017. All programs new or old will be required to submit an entire application this year. Email p4fchildren@gmail.com to

request an application. Applications will be due back to the P4F office by noon on May 4th. P4F funding will be known after the

legislative session. P4F Board will meet in May to make decisions on funding pending final notification from the state. At this time P4F is expecting a decrease in funding for FY18.

Iowa's response to ACEs Connections Matter

[Connections Matter](#) is an initiative designed to engage community members in building caring connections to improve well-being. Research shows that communities connected through caring relationships have better physical and mental health, increased workplace productivity and school success, and less crime and homelessness. Greater social connectedness also strengthens families from the start to reduce the likelihood that child abuse will occur.

The Connections Matter initiative is led by Prevent Child Abuse in collaboration with partners statewide. It responds to data that reveals child abuse and household dysfunction is common among Iowans and a major indicator of higher rates of chronic disease, mental illness, risky behaviors and reduced life expectancy among adults. [Read the 2016 Iowa Adverse Childhood Experiences \(ACEs\) Report.](#)

More than 400 presenters in Iowa have been trained to deliver the Connections Matter message and groups are initiating efforts to promote connections within organizations and communities. Visit [Connections Matter](#) to request a presentation or access the awareness toolkit.

We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.partnerships4families.org

Find this an much more information on the PCA Iowa website at:
<http://www.pcaiowa.org/programs/connections-matter/>