

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.

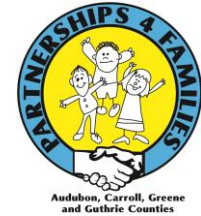
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Little Hats Big Hearts

Those little red hats are the cutest thing, with a big message. This month the American Heart Association, in connection with the Children's Heart Foundation are celebrating American Heart Month by knitting and crocheting red hats for babies born in

February. The initiative is to build awareness of heart disease and congenital heart defects, the most common type of birth defect in the country.

Congenital heart defects are structural problems in the heart present at birth. The development of the heart takes place

before the mother even knows she is pregnant. As we raise awareness about congenital heart disease it is also important to raise awareness about the importance of prenatal care in mothers.

Lots to ponder in those cute little red hats!

2017 Legislative Session

The Iowa Legislative session is off to a fast start with a bill to cut FY17 spending. As of the release of this newsletter P4F still does not know its fate. They have heard there will be no cuts to a cut of 4.25%. Regardless the P4F Board is looking at ways to cut spending and administrative

costs in FY18. The P4F Board strives to put as much funding into core programs while also continuing the building of an early childhood system.

Legislation was introduced last year and is trying to come back this year to remove the categorical funding

requirements to ECI areas. This measure would allow ECI boards to fund programs based on need rather than on the prescriptiveness of the funds.

Check local chambers or your legislator's website for listings of their local Saturday morning coffees.



"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 February 15th 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 February 7th 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 March 9th at noon.**

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

1000 Books or 30 Million Words

Awareness continues to build about the importance of words and children 0-5. P4F has continues to support our local libraries in the 1000 Books before Kindergarten. The premise is to have parents, child care providers or others reading to children with the goal of the

child to reach 1000 Books. A family in Carroll reached it by age 3 with their daughter and continues to read to her.

There is also the book and website, 30 Million Words <http://thirtymillionwords.org/> . "The Thirty Million Words Initiative

develops and disseminates evidence-based, parent-directed programs that encourage parents to harness the power of their words to build their children's brains and shape their futures."

Start promoting both initiatives with the families you serve

P4F Board Update

The P4F Board met in January 2017. The board accepted the Agreed upon Procedures report from the Auditors, acknowledged the purchase of liability insurance for 2017

and spent the majority of the meeting receiving an update on the preschool support efforts in our area. The board also approved two new members who will start

in February; they are Genelle Deist from Audubon and Karen Gotto from Carroll.

Next Meeting Feb 17th at New Opportunities Room D in Carroll

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Person in the Spot Lite- Trisha

Trisha Christensen has worked with the child care providers in Audubon, Carroll, Greene and Guthrie counties for over 17 years. Actually Trisha has always worked in child care, from an internship in child care to

directors of the center in Lake City, then the Child Care Project funded by P4F. Trisha has dedicated her life to increasing the quality of child care for children. She understands the need

for families to have a safe and secure environment to leave their children while at work.

Thank you Trisha for your dedication to child care!

What is P4F

Partnerships 4 Families is the conduit for building an early childhood system in the four counties we serve. It is our goal to connect all providers of early childhood services with each other.

Through networking and sharing of information we provide better services to young children and their families. The ECTF meetings are one way they encourage networking with each

other. Through newsletters, personal conversations and introductions early childhood providers are connected for the benefit of young children.

Early Childhood Task Force Meetings

Early Childhood Task Force meeting are intended to bring together early childhood providers three times a year for networking and to provide input on our local Early Childhood Area to the P4F Board.

Audubon County will meet at 4:00 on Monday March 6th at the ISU Extension Meeting Room.

Carroll County will meet at 4:00 on Tuesday March 13th at New Opportunities in Meeting Room D

Greene County will meet at 4:00 on Tuesday March 7th Greene County Medical Center-Main Entrance-Directions will be given at the door.

Guthrie County will meet at 4:00 on Tuesday March 14th at the Guthrie County Extension Office.

This is a great opportunity to connect with others serving the young children in the counties. Make plans to attend.

The ECTF meetings will be held in October, March and June of this fiscal year.

We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.partnerships4families.org