



Early Childhood Iowa
Monday Musings
February 8, 2016
Vol. 3, No. 6

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](#).

"Quality is never an accident; it is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction, and skillful execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives."

-Willa A. Foster

State Information:

ECI Stakeholders Alliance Webinar Meeting – February 9, 2016

Sign up now for an ECI Stakeholder Alliance webinar on February 9, 2016 – 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM!

To Register go to <https://zoom.us/webinar/register/eb9293cf4d6bfaf334538d7d4481ef37>

The agenda includes:

- An overview of the recently adopted ECI Strategic Plan
- Introduction of new products developed by ECI Component Groups
- 2016 EC Day on the Hill Preparation information including:
 - Agenda for the day
 - Messaging and materials (See note below)
 - Developing and Elevator Speech
 - Legislative Update and Tips for meeting with Legislators
- *To view the agenda, go to **the attachment** on the email and to view the most current Day on the Hill handouts, talking points and county level data go to: [2016 EC Day on the Hill](#)*
- *To view the ECI Annual Report go to: [2015 ECI Annual Report](#)*
- *To view the ECI Strategic Plan go to: [ECI Strategic Plan](#)*

The Early Childhood Day on the Hill event is coming!

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend. Day on the Hill will be held on **Tuesday, February 23, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.** in the Capitol rotunda. The focus of this year's event will be on the importance of high quality child care. Please consider sending an invitation to your state legislators now! Go [here](#) for a Save the Date Announcement.

To Register for the 2016 EC Day on the Hill go to: 2016 EC Day on the Hill:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/S3R6GP8>

Don't know who your legislators are? Find out by visiting <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators>. Get to know your legislators by signing up for newsletters, attending community forums and simply reaching out to them. They want to hear from you! Don't wait until you get to the Capitol. Begin building a relationship today!

2015 Early Childhood Annual Report Now Available on-line

The 2015 ECI Annual report has been posted on the ECI Webpage.

The Early Childhood Iowa 2015 Annual Report has been written to report on FY 2015 which includes the dates from July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015. Because of the ability to share more information beyond the SFY 2015 within specific sections of the report, additional information has been included when available.

This includes summaries submitted by Area ECI Boards.

To access the Annual Report, Summaries and other information: [2015 ECI Annual Report](#)

2016 -2018 Early Childhood Iowa Strategic Plan Now Available on-line

The new ECI Strategic plan was adopted on January 7, 2016 by the ECI Steering Committee on behalf of the ECI Stakeholders Alliance and adopted by the ECI State Board on January 8, 2016.

The strategic goals for the next three years are:

- **Establish and Promote a Solid Infrastructure to Advance the Early Childhood System**
- **Ensure Access to High Quality Services for Young Children and their Families**
- **Build Public Will for Supporting Young Children and their Families**

To access the plan: [2016-2018 Early Childhood Iowa Strategic Plan](#)

SOUTHEAST IOWA 
EARLY CHILDHOOD SUMMIT
APRIL 15 & 16, 2016

Friday April 15th

9:30 – 10:00am Check In - IWU Chapel Auditorium
10:00 – NOON Keynote, Rob Grunewald, Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank
NOON – 1:00pm IWU Social Hall (presentation of community awards)

Saturday April 16th

7:30 – 8:30am Check In – Continental breakfast and vendors – IWU Student Activity Center
8:30 – 10:00am Keynote – Frank and Kimberlee Spillers, Authors, *The Be WUCA! Way; The ART of Getting Along*
10:00 – 3:00pm Breakout Sessions and Networking

Join us for a 2 day event to learn about how investing in young children benefits everyone.

Who should attend?

- Business Professionals
- Early Care and Education Professionals
- Parents
- Community Leaders

For more Information or to Register:

[SOUTH EAST IOWA EARLY CHILDHOOD SUMMIT](#)

New Website Allows Citizens to Comment on Government Plans and Programs

Public participation in government helps our state to reform plans and prevent overregulation or red tape, encouraging efficiency, economic growth and job creation. – Gov. Terry Branstad

The purpose of State of Iowa's *Public Comments Website* is to allow members of the public the opportunity to comment on documents.

To access the site: [IOWA PUBLIC COMMENT](#)

Federal Information:

Upcoming Opportunities to learn more about Early Head Start Child Care Partnerships

Later this month, the Partnerships Center will release the first issue of its quarterly newsletter, Making Connections: The Partnership Newsletter. The focus of the issue will be "Strengthening Partner Relationships" and will include early successes experienced by an EHS-CCP grantee, a spotlight on working with Family Child Care, tips and tools for developing a Partnership Agreement, and much more. In conjunction with ACF, the Partnerships Center will host a webinar titled "**Making Strides in Early Head Start Child Care Partnerships**" on **Wednesday, January 27th from 3-4 pm eastern** with Shannon Rudisill, Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood Development, to build on the newsletter release and explore how grantees are individualizing their approaches with diverse child care partners for combined strength. The webinar will include a facilitated dialogue with two current EHS-CCP grantees and partners from Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency in Oregon and United Way of New Haven in Connecticut who will share their exciting, innovative approaches to supporting infants and toddlers and their families through EHS and child care partnerships.

Join the webinar by registering at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2547619390256420097>

To stay up to date on all things EHS-CCP, don't forget to subscribe (or update your subscription) on ECLKC to include: Partnerships between Early Childhood Programs.

<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/eclkc/customerservice/cmalerts>

New Developmental and Behavioral Screening Resource From the Office of Child Care

Last week the Office of Child Care (OCC) published a new Information Memorandum (IM) on developmental and behavioral screenings in child care and afterschool care programs. The new IM addresses provisions in the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014 that relate to these screenings and includes background information, guidance, potential policies, and resources

related to the topic. Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) grantees might find this information helpful as they prepare their plans and consider policies to promote developmental screenings in child care programs.

To read the IM, visit [this page](#) on the OCC Web site. For other policy resources related to the CCDBG Act of 2014, visit the [CCDF Reauthorization page](#) on the OCC Web site.

Inclusion in Early Childhood Programs— Webinar Series Kickoff – Two Important Dates

Thursday, February 11th, 3:00 pm, EST.

The U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services invite you to join them via Google Hangout for a discussion about [inclusion in early childhood programs](#) and why it matters to states, early childhood programs, families, and young children with and without disabilities.

Speakers include:

[Michael Yudin](#) Assistant Secretary, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services, U.S. Department of Education

[Linda Smith](#) Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood Development, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

[Libby Doggett](#) Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Early Learning U.S. Department of Education

[Aaron Bishop](#) Commissioner of the Administration on Disabilities, Administration for Community Living, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

The discussion kicks off a series of webinars on the research, practice, and public awareness of inclusion in early childhood programs, to be held over the next several months.

[Click here to view the event.](#)

[We recommend you use your most up-to-date browser for viewing]

If you have questions for our speakers prior to the event, please post them on twitter at [#inclusiongov](#), or email ECinclusion@ed.gov

National Inclusion Webinar

Thursday, February 18, 2016, 3:00 - 4:00 pm EST

Preschool Inclusion: What's the Evidence, What Gets in the Way, and What do High-Quality Programs Look Like?

Presented by:

Linda Smith (Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood Development for the ACF at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services)

Phil Strain (Director, PELE Center; Faculty, ECTA Center; Professor, Education Psychology & Early Childhood Special Education, University of Colorado Denver)

This webinar will focus on:

1. an overview of the 40 years of research supporting early childhood inclusion,
2. a review of myths surrounding the children, adults and systems that support inclusion, and;
3. a review of common features across the inclusion models that have produced the most powerful outcomes.

We hope everyone will register independently, even if they plan on viewing the webinar with a group! If you miss the live event, we'll make a recording available afterward.

Sign-up here: https://unc.az1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_bOTYadlytmCOWiV

Earned Income Tax Credit Can Help Rural Families

Thanks to the hard work of Rural Americans, along with record investments in infrastructure under the Recovery Act and the 2014 Farm Bill, over the last seven years America was able to pull itself out of one of the deepest economic recessions since the Great Depression. While we've seen wages rise and unemployment fall in rural areas over the last several years, workers in rural America still receive less hours and earn less pay than those in urban areas. Fortunately, for those who need help making ends meet, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) can help.

To learn more: [EITC](#)

Other Information:

Iowa Child Abuse Prevention Conference Update

The [2016 Child Abuse Prevention Conference](#) will take place April 25-27 in downtown Des Moines. Hotel rooms at a discounted rate are now available to reserve with the Des Moines Marriott Downtown. To learn more or to Register, **use the link above.**

Iowa Reggio Emilia Facebook Page

Soh Meacham, PhD., University of Northern Iowa College of Education, has set up an Iowa specific Facebook Page Group on Reggio Emilia. It is called Reggiowa

To visit go to [REGGIOWA](#)

The changing geography of U.S. Hispanics

The communities in which Hispanics live are increasingly diverse, in location and character, with implications for the well-being of Latino children and families (via access to healthy food and green space, exposure to violence, and more). In this brief, the [National Research Center on Hispanic Children & Families](#) reviews the changing locations of Hispanic populations and key drivers of these changes.



Toddlers Recognize Written Word As Meaningful Symbols

The [AP](#) (link) covers a report published in the journal “Child Development” which found that toddlers are able to recognize written words as symbols at an earlier age than experts had previously thought, which marks an important step on the path to reading readiness. In the words of Temple University psychology professor Kathy Hirsh-Pasek, who specializes in literacy development, recognizing that writing is “something that stands for something else, it actually is a vehicle for language — that’s pretty powerful stuff.”

Results Leadership Group Offers Free Webinar

Results Leadership Group is proud to present its first FREE Results Scorecard Community of Practice Webinar: ***Results Scorecard Community of Practice: Best Practices to Turning Curves***. The webinar will be held on Tuesday March 15th, on GoTo Webinar from 1:00pm – 2:30pm (EST). Lauren Chambers, Certified Results Scorecard Administrator and Scorecard Training Manager at Results Leadership Group will be presenting the webinar.

To Learn more to Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4130546699030496770>

The Raising of America Series Available in February

Would your work to improve the well-being of all our young children and their families be a little easier if your colleagues, friends, community and civic leaders saw *The Raising of America*?

They'll have the chance starting this week.

[From Feb. 1st - 15th, anyone can stream the entire series at www.raisingofamerica.org -- for free.](http://www.raisingofamerica.org)

And on **Feb. 3rd or Feb. 7th**, most [public television stations](#) will broadcast *The Raising of America-Signature Hour* on their WORLD Channel during prime time. (You can find your local station, its World Channel and broadcast schedule for *The Raising of America* in [this Google doc.](#))

Please share both opportunities widely! We've provided some sample Facebook posts and Tweets below. Or forward this newsletter.

After viewing, visit the series' [companion website](#) to:

- [Connect with our partner organizations](#) already using the series to reframe how we view early childhood,
- [find screenings](#) in your area,
- and [join the campaign](#) and host your own screenings and discussions.

We know the conversation needs to change to better assure the conditions all young children need for a strong start--but how?

[Start with our Action Toolkit](#) to spark discussion around the most strategic ways your organization can use the series; [think beyond your sector](#) to consider how your organization can connect with or support living wage jobs, affordable housing, racial justice, paid family leave, high-quality universal early care; etc.; and for inspiration check out a few of the many [innovative ways organizations are using the series](#) to make young children and their families a local, state, even national priority.

Thank you for helping make a strong start the birthright of every baby in the United States!

Sincerely,
The Raising of America Team

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>

2016 ECI Meeting Calendar:

ECI State Board

10:00 – 1:00

April 1

June 3

September 9

November 4

ECI Stakeholders Alliance

3 – 4 Hour meetings

February 9 (Webinar)

May 10 (PM)

September 13 (AM)

December 13 (PM)

ECI Area Directors

April 6 All day

(June will be regional meetings)

September 13 (afternoon)

December 7 All day

ECI State Dept. Directors

8:30 – 10:30

May 6

October 7

ECI Steering Committee

Time Varies

March 3 (9:00 – 4:00 PM)

April 7 (9:00 AM – Noon)

June 2 (9:00 AM – Noon)

August 4 (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM)

October 6 (9:00 AM – Noon)

November 3 (9:00 AM – Noon)

Early Childhood Iowa Day on the Hill

February 23, 2016