

Story County Childhood Collaboration—Early Childhood Subcommittee—Spring 2001
Empowerment Report: Early Childhood Needs and Recommendations

The early childhood needs are prioritized one through four, with one being the highest priority. Within each need, bullets are meant as descriptors and are not prioritized.

Needs			
1. Early Care & Education (services provided directly to child and/or caregiver)	2. Family Support & Education	3. Transportation	4. Comprehensive Health: Healthy Mind and Body
<p>Families need increased access to affordable, high quality early childhood care and education.</p> <p>Access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families need specialized care such as care for sick children, evening/weekend care, respite care, drop-in care for emergency situations (i.e. court proceedings, job interviews, etc.). • Families need more child care and preschools in all communities, not just Ames. <p>Affordability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families need financial assistance for child care and preschools. <p>High quality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children need environments that promote development of cognitive, language, social and emotional skills, as well as health. • Children need caregivers who have high standards for health and safety practices and who are stimulating and supportive. • Children need a stable environment, secure attachment to a primary childcare provider and consistency in routine. 	<p>Families need informal and formal support to help the whole family thrive.</p> <p>Parental needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of and Skills in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -child development -parenting -managing a household -how to access resources • Awareness of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -importance of child development -importance of language and literacy -school expectations -how to balance parental needs with child needs <p>Family needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security through consistency in contacts with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -people -places -ritual -routine • Communities that support school readiness through early supports or foundations for school readiness 	<p>Families need reliable, accessible, and affordable transportation for children’s early childhood needs in Story County (including small communities as well as large).</p> <p>Transportation to-and-from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preschool • Childcare • Health services including dental • Early childhood social interaction opportunities (i.e. structured play groups, library story hour, etc.) • Services that provide basic needs/support (i.e. churches, DHS, grocery stores, food banks, etc.) 	<p>Children and parents need to have healthy minds and bodies in order to maintain stability in the home.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families need early and consistent access to health services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -insurance -prevention -treatment • Parents and children need their psychological needs met. • Parents need support with dealing with children’s behavioral problems. • Parents need appropriate medical and nutritional information. • Children need to improve the quality of their nutritional intake. • Children need protection from communicable diseases through immunizations. • Children need to prevent damage to the function of their teeth through early and consistent dental services. • Families need information and support regarding substance abuse prevention and treatment. • Children need early detection or identification of health or special needs through screenings.

Recommendations

In response to the four identified areas of need, the Story County Childhood Collaboration—Early Childhood Subcommittee developed five recommendations designed to support young children so they will grow up healthy, safe, and educated as well as assist adults in being effective parents. The recommendations are not listed in any priority order. In addition, the recommendations are intended to help agencies and organizations move towards our vision of having a cohesive, coordinated plan to serve Story County families who have young children.

Recommendation One (1)

To support programming for families with young children that works towards meeting the needs identified in this report.

Recommendation Two (2)

To build community capacity for developing programs that meet the needs of our families

- Provide comprehensive community education in evaluation process (assessment, outcome measurement, understanding trends, developing objectives, data collection, etc).
- Provide training on Total Community Development model resulting in the community (service providers, parents, schools, churches, legislators, etc.) sharing a common vision for families of young children in Story County.

Recommendation Three (3)

Provide support and resources for inter-agency collaboration.

- Training for agencies/organizations on:

Collaboration building	Sharing resources
Liability issues	Evaluation/outcomes
Reports	Communication
- Collaborative reports and administrative work
- Inter-agency sharing of information

Recommendation Four (4)

That the Empowerment Board work towards simplification of funding processes in Story County including RFP's and reporting.

Recommendation Five (5)

That the Story County Childhood Collaboration—Early Childhood Subcommittee continue to be given the opportunity to share information with the Empowerment Board on early childhood issues, services, and our vision for families in Story County.

List of the Story County Services/Programs compiled by the Early Childhood Subcommittee of the SCCC

1. Early Care & Education (services provided directly to child and/or caregiver)	2. Family Support & Education	3. Transportation	4. Comprehensive Health
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Care Handbook and other publications, ISU Extension (ISUE) • Child Care that Works training for child care providers (home-study, workshops), ISUE • Foster Care, YSS, LSS • Infant network, Center for Child Care Resources (CCR) • Child care provider training, CCR • Child advocacy, CCR • Early Literacy program, Heartland AEA • Non-profit and for-profit child care centers • Early Success program • Moving Forward program • Sick child care-The Comfort Zone, ISU • Early Head Start, MICA • Shared Visions, Ames-W-B-Preschool • Early Childhood Special Education programs-Willson-Beadshear • HeadStart, MICA, Drake • For profit/not-for-profit daycare centers and preschools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent referrals, CCR • Child care financial assistance, CCR • Child advocacy, CCR • Little People Playtime-a parent/child play group, NCRC • Dad's group time, NCRC • Mom's group time, NCRC • Basic needs and special requests, NCRC • Parents as Teachers program, NCRC, CCR, PP-LSS • Early childhood toy lending library, NCRC • WIC program, MICA • School programs for families • ABC support group, People Place (PP-LSS) • MELD and MELD special, PP-LSS • Nurturing program, YSS • FaDDS, MICA, YSS • Victim advocacy, YSS • Healthy Futures, YSS, Homeward, MICA, ISUE • Publications, ISUE • Nutrition programs, ISUE • Web site storycountyfamily.org, CCR, NCRC, PP-LSS, ISUE • "Warmline"/library resources PP-LSS • Bookmobile-Ames library & other libraries in the county • Books for Babies program, Ames library • Parenting classes, Homeward • Tri-County Health Connection, YSS Parent ed/communication classes, PP-LSS • Drop-in respite, PP-LSS • Crisis respite, respite for special needs, LSS, ARC, ChildServe • Child care subsidy, DHS • Flex-care program, ISU • Sitter's list, YWCA • FaDSS, YSS • Early Access, AEA • Parent/child play group, PP-LSS • Playground safety, ISUE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wheels to Work program, Beyond Welfare • Heartland Senior Services van but cost is too high • Variety Club van at Boys and Girls Club of Ames • Cy-Ride, Ames only • Willson-Beadshear programs provide transportation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free clinic, YSS • WIC, MICA • Hawk-I • Homeward • Healthy Futures, Tri-County Health Connections, YSS • Early Access, screenings • HeadStart, screenings • Parents as Teachers, screenings • Mental health services, Richmond Center, LSS, YSS, McFarland Clinic, private providers • FaDSS nurse, YSS • Substance abuse treatment/prevention, CFARI, YSS • McFarland Clinics take Title XIX and HAWK-I • Story County Hospital • Mary Greeley Medical Center • Heartland AEA