February 2015

February Holidays and Celebrations:
American Heart Month
7- Send a Card to a Friend Day

11- Don't cry over Spilled Milk Day

12 - Abraham Lincoln's birthday

14- Ferris Wheel Day

16- President's Day
17- Random Acts of Kindness Day
20- Cherry Pie Day
22- Walking the Dog Day
27- Polar Bear Day

2015 Spring Leadership Institute

Save the Date! May 16, 2015

Iowa AEYC's Spring Leadership Institute – May 16, 2015 at Prairie Meadows Conference Center in Altoona. Maurice Sykes, Director of the Early Childhood Leadership Institute at the University of the District of Columbia's National Center for Urban Education will be our special guest. He is the author of Doing the Right Thing for Children: Eight Qualities of Leadership. Watch for more details and registration information in 2015.

2015-2016

Applications available soon! Processing of applications will not occur until after July 1st.

Please let me know of your Registration dates!

I will try and attend to disburse applications and answer questions from families.

Reminder

Please remember to submit original receipts for your Reach for the Stars or Quality Improvement grants

Follow-up surveys will be given out at your spring visits. I will collect the “Thank You “cards at that time.
March 5, 2015
SAVE THE DATE!
Early Childhood Iowa Day on the Hill
“Invest in Brain Development”

9:30 – 11:30
ECI Stakeholders Alliance Meeting
(Wallace Auditorium--on Capitol complex)

11:30 – 12:00
Walk to Capitol/lunch
(on your own)

12:00 – 1:00
Regional Meetings with Legislators
(Capitol)

1:00 – 2:30
Individual Meetings with Legislators
(Capitol)

There are 2,000 days between birth and the first day of kindergarten. The first 2,000 days of a child’s life have a PROFOUND and LIFELONG impact on physical and emotional wellbeing, readiness to learn and succeed, and ability to become a productive citizen.
AEYC has grant and scholarship opportunities for members and others in the Iowa early care and education workforce. If you are interested in a T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Iowa Scholarship, go to the T.E.A.C.H. page for more information.

Tony Lacy Iowa AEYC Membership Scholarship

If you are not a current member of Iowa AEYC you might want to consider applying for the Tony Lacy Iowa AEYC Membership Scholarship. This scholarship is for a one year membership for individuals in NAEYC/Iowa AEYC.

Leadership Fellowships

The Iowa AEYC Leadership Fellowship will enable the successful participants to develop their leadership skills through attendance at state or national professional development opportunities, and in turn they will be expected to provide leadership to the early childhood field in our state.

Awards

Iowa AEYC will grant a Children's Champion award to a person who has made significant contributions on the state level to improving the quality of care and education of young children. The person can be any professional, legislator, volunteer, or anyone currently living or working in the state, who has demonstrated an outstanding service or achievement to benefit Iowa's young children. Children's Champion nomination form.

Iowa AEYC will grant a Friend of Young Children award to an Iowa AEYC member who has made a significant contribution to improving the quality of care and education of young children. Friend of Young Children nomination form.
"No one has yet fully realized the wealth of sympathy, kindness and generosity hidden in the soul of a child. The effort of every true education should be to unlock that treasure."

Emma Goldman (author)

"Children are our most valuable resource."

Herbert Hoover (31st U.S. president)

"I continue to believe that if children are given the necessary tools to succeed, they will succeed beyond their wildest dreams!"

David Vitter (U.S. senator)

While we try to teach our children all about life, our children teach us what life is all about."

Angela Schwindt
Save the Date!

Experience the interactive, humorous, unique style of...

**Kate Werling, MS in ECSE**

*I Can Make a Difference: Planning Quality Services for Children with Disabilities*

Explore the legal requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act and create a vision for inclusion for your program. Learn ways to accommodate for diverse learners and take home resources and plans for making simple changes in your program.

Saturday, March 28
Grinnell Community Center, 2nd floor CCRR Office
927 4th Ave, Grinnell
Funding provided through Iowa Department of Human Services

For more information, contact Brenda O'Halloran
641-820-1923

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2015 Southeast Iowa Early Care & Education and Family Support Symposium

Saturday, March 28
Indian Hills College, Ottumwa

Director's Track available with NAC credits - presenter Stacey Walters - “Directors Toolkit”
Family support Track - “Lemonade for Life”
Early Care and Education track- presenter Kelly Matthews - “Play & Perspective Plus”

Early Registration before March 6: $45.00
General Registration: $60.00

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The Infant Toddler Seminar

Saturday, February 21
Mary Greeley Medical Center, Ames.

6 hours of DHS-approved training credit.

The day will begin at 9:30 a.m. and will feature the topics of building secure relationships and how to make story time about more than just reading.

Look for the Infant Toddler Seminar 2015 on the training registry in January.
Healthy Viewing Habits for Children and Families

**Time**—Limit the amount of daily screen time. Doctors suggest no screen time for children under two years old, and only 1-2 hours of quality programming for children two and older. Plan what you will watch and consider what other activities could be fun.

**Talk**—Talk with children about viewing and online choices. Watch or play along with them, so you can discuss the content. Explain that some images or situations are realistic, others are not. Ask questions to further the learning, "What else could Clifford have done to help?" or "How do you feel after watching this?"

**Coach**—Coach children how to be choosy TV and internet viewers. Give them choices between two shows or games that would be acceptable to you.

**Educate**—Use an episode or segment to teach lessons to children. Further teach children by reading a book or doing an activity that reinforces the message.

**Tune**—Tune into PBS on your TV or go to PBS online for quality programs and activities.

**Did You Know?**
- When considering apps, 77% of parents say educational content is most important.
- Six in ten parents collaborate with their child to select apps, while ¾ of parents choose the apps themselves.
- When selecting games and apps, more than ¾ of parents base their decisions on age recommendations.
- In addition to content, 56% of parents pointed to price and 45% cited characters their kids know and love as important factors when choosing apps.

**Tips for choosing apps:**
- Think about what your child is passionate about
- Distinguish what is truly educational
- Develop a media plan for your family
- Play together
- Select apps from trusted sources

(ORCInternational, 2013)
2015 Public Policies Priorities

Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children

Iowa AEYC is committed to the creation of an early care and education system in Iowa that will ensure every child, beginning at birth, is healthy and successful. The first 2000 days are critical to a child’s future well-being, ability to learn, and overall life success.

In response to the science of brain development, we support the need for high quality programming and an educated workforce.

Each and every child will have accessibility to a quality early care and education program

◊ Adequately resource Iowa’s Quality Rating System to emphasize evidence-based, best practices and include quality improvement strategies.
◊ Ensure widespread availability of community and family education regarding quality early care and education programs and developmentally appropriate practices.
◊ Establish a tiered reimbursement system for Child Care Assistance, ensuring quality programs are reimbursed at an adequate and higher level. Ensure the most at risk children have access to the highest quality programs possible, by raising the eligibility level for working families and minimizing the cliff effect.
◊ Ensure the most at risk 3- and 4-year olds have access to statewide voluntary preschool programs, and support accountability for collaboration of these programs with community partners including Head Start, private preschools and private child care.
◊ Ensure all developmental needs are met through appropriate expectations in birth through age three and pre K-grade 3 settings, including play-based learning, effective transition practices, and support for social-emotional needs.

A diverse early care and education workforce will be appropriately educated, fairly compensated, respected, and valued.

◊ Strengthen state regulations to ensure all early care and education providers are encouraged to seek increased education along the adopted career pathway.
◊ Create new and innovative policies to increase racial, ethnic, gender, and linguistic diversity of our early learning workforce to best serve the diverse families in Iowa.
◊ Increase funding for T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® scholarships to ensure at least one teacher in every program is educated and holds a CDA credential or degree appropriate for their position.
◊ Provide state-wide funding for a child care compensation initiative for educated teachers and providers. (WAGE$)

The mission of Iowa AEYC is to serve and act on behalf of the early childhood education profession.

Visit our website at www.iowaeyc.org
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<th>County</th>
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<td>Adair</td>
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All Information regarding legislators and legislation can be accessed at [http://www.legis.iowa.gov/index.aspx](http://www.legis.iowa.gov/index.aspx) or by calling 515-281-3221

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