

News 4 You

Partnerships 4 Families

January 2011
Issue 163

The Preschool Debate in 2011

The 84th Iowa Assembly will begin on Monday January 10, 2011. At that time we will also have a returning governor to Iowa.

Persons who listened to the campaign or who have read recent news articles will know that preschool funding will most likely be debated. This debate will center on the cost of a statewide preschool and if it is a right or a privilege for children to have access to preschool at age four.

Regardless of what your point of view is we need to make sure that the Legislators and our returning governor make informed decisions. It will be very important that citizens provide specific examples or

research as to how preschool benefits children. Parents should share their point of view. Early childhood educators should share experiences that they have seen. Private preschools should share how the state wide preschool has affected their business. Childcare providers should share their point of view, too.

One point we all need to keep in mind, we can not turn back the clock to four years ago because things have changed. In order to move our early childhood system forward we must devise a plan that the legislators approve of but provides a foundation for our children.

What does that look like for you?

Congratulations to Carroll County H.O.P.E.S.

Carroll County H.O.P.E.S. has received official word that they will be presented with their Iowa Family Support Credential on January 10, 2011 at 2:00 PM in the Atrium at St Anthony's. Receiving the Iowa Family Support

Credential is an honor that few have received in the State of Iowa. It is an accumulation of over two years of hard work and dedication of working on policies and procedures of the program. It is also a mark of quality of the

staff who works with the families.

We hope you are able to join the staff of St Anthony Carroll County Public Health when they receive their award on January 10th.

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Alphabet Soup:

- ASQ-3 Ages and Stages Questioner, version 3
- ECR-Every Child Reads
- hawk-I Healthy & Well Kids in Iowa
- IQPPS- Iowa Quality Preschool Programs Standards

Community Human Service Coalition Meetings

Community Coalition Meetings are intentional meetings of human service providers gathering to network for the benefit of the people they serve. Any one is welcome to attend.

Audubon County meets at 11:30 AM on the second Wednesday of the month quarterly at the ISU Extension. Their next meeting is: **Wednesday, January 12th at 11:30.**

Carroll County meets at noon on the third Wednesday of the month at Charlie's in the Carrollton Center. Their next meeting is: **Wednesday, January 19th at noon.**

Greene County meets on the first Tuesday of the month. Their next meeting is **Tuesday January 4th at Noon.**

Guthrie County meets at

noon quarterly in March, June, September and December on the second Thursday of the month at the Guthrie County ISU Extension meeting room. **March 10th at Noon**

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

P4F Early Childhood Task Force Meetings

Early Childhood Task Force meetings are intended to bring together early childhood providers four times a year for networking and program development. Information from the Early Childhood Task Force meetings provides local input to the Partnerships 4 Families Board decision making process.

Following are the meeting times for February.

Audubon at 4:00 PM
Monday February 7th at the Audubon ISU Extension Meeting Room

Carroll at 4:00 PM
Thursday February 3rd
New Opportunities, Rm D

Greene at 4:00 PM
Tuesday February 1st at the GC Medical Center Public

Health Conference Room
Guthrie at 4:00 PM
Tuesday February 8th at the Guthrie County Public Health

The focus of the February ECTF will be a legislative session, Day on the Hill and the new Levels of Excellence.

Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom -

George Washington Carver

DECAT

A new DCAT and CPPC Coordinator has been hired, Alayna Clancy learning the ins and outs of her job. Look for her at the monthly coalition

meetings. Her Contact information is:

aclancy@dhs.state.ia.us

DCAT and CPPC
P.O. Box 278
608 N. Court St., Ste. C
Carroll, IA 51401

712-792-4391, Ext 239
Fax: 712-792-1516

Clancy covers Audubon, Carroll, Greene and Guthrie DCAT Area and the Crawford and Sac DCAT.

On Going Assessment Training for Preschool Teachers and Associates

Partnerships 4 Families has made a large commitment over the past three years to assist area preschools in the development of Creative Curriculum and the Creative Curriculum assessment system, now known as GOLD™. P4F along with New Opportunities Head Start has brought a national trainer on site for 8 days of

training specifically centered on overall assessment and this past summer on GOLD™ the new on line assessment system. P4F has continued their support with monthly workshops centered on the new on line assessment and individualized support through to preschools by Corey Sebetka.

P4F is appreciative of the preschool teachers and staff to adopt Creative Curriculum and the new on line assessment system.

To obtain a list of workshops offered in 2011 email Cindy Duhrkopf or Corey Sebetka. Any preschool teacher in our area is welcome to attend.

Partnerships 4 Families Board Update

The Partnerships 4 Families Board had their Annual Report Review by the Office of Early Childhood Iowa on December 1, 2010. The review was done via conference call, Debra Scrowther Community Liaison, with the Office of Early Childhood Iowa conducted the review. Cindy Duhrkopf along with P4F Board members Patricia

Nielsen and Donna Sutton attended the conference call.

There were not deficiencies reported in the review and P4F was complemented numerous times for the professionalism of our area and the success of our programs. Copies of the complete review are available by contacting Duhrkopf at cdurkopf@newopp.org.

The P4F Board does not meet in December. The next meeting is January 21, 2011.

All meetings are open to the public and held at the Coon Rapids Municipal Building.

Have you heard about JobJet?

JobJet is a carpool taken to the next level. Five to fifteen commuters ride together to and from work in a fully equipped passenger van.

JobJet members live in close proximity to one another, work in the same general area and have similar work hours.

JobJet members meet in a central location or set their rout and time schedule and pay one monthly fare and travel to and from work together.

Ridesharing offers an economical reliable and dependable alternative to driving alone to work.

To learn more about JobJet go to www.jobjet.org or contact Region XII at 712-792-9914.

Share this information with others that may benefit from the service.

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Families Together Available in 2011

The ISU Extension 2011 Families Together series provides parents and others an opportunity to improve both their life and that of their children. In February, Holly VanHeel, ISU Extension Nutrition & Health Program Specialist will present the first of two Small Steps to Health & Wealth classes. The second Small Steps class will be taught in March by Ruth Freeman, ISUE Family Resource Management Specialist. Small changes in health and finance practices are easier to maintain than big changes. Studies show that as one area improves, the other area improves. Participants will set health and finance goals and identify small steps to reach those goals, identify obstacles and how to overcome them and monitor progress.

The Building a Strong Foundation in Reading class will be held in April with Kim Brantner, ISUE Program Specialist. Reading can be a fun family activity for everyone! Learn how you can prepare your child for school. Children learn social and language skills when you are reading books. You can be your child's most important teacher.

Persons living in Carroll, Greene, Guthrie or Audubon counties are encouraged to contact their local ISU Extension office for more information.

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



The Period of PURPLE Crying™

The *Period of Purple Crying* is a phrase used to describe the point in a baby's life when they cry more than any other time.

Information regarding the *Period of Purple Crying* is promoted through the National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome. The state of Iowa has received a grant to disperse the information to hospitals OB wards in Central Iowa, but the importance of the

information is reaching beyond those area hospitals. Persons interested in learning more about the *Period of Purple Crying* are encouraged to go to www.purplecrying.info a wealth of information lays at your finger tips.

Locally our home visitation programs have had training and we hope to take the training to child care providers in our area soon. But the most important people we want

to hear the information is parents of infants. We would like to encourage you if you work with parents with infants or if you have a relative with an infant to please share the previous website with them. The information could be the difference between frustration and peace for a new family.

www.purplecrying.info