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### National Program for Playground Safety (NPPS) has Local Presence

NPPS was established in 1995 with a grant from the Center for Disease Control and Injury Prevention. Its mission is to make Americans playgrounds S.A.F.E. The mission is carried out through education which includes safety schools, workshops, printed materials, research, assessments, surfacing and age appropriate design. Technical assistance is provided through a hot line, web and consultations.

Locally in the past five years we have seen a demand for information regarding playground development and safety. Seeking to fill the need of the child care providers, centers and preschools in our area Partnerships 4 Families supported the local Child Care

Project, housed at the Family Resource Center, in sending Trisha Christensen to the NPPS Safety School. Christensen is now certified to conduct workshops, educational sessions and provide on site consultation regarding the NPPS guidelines.

Currently Christensen is taking appointments with providers, directors, teachers or administrators to share information and provide guidance regarding playground safety. Christensen can be contacted at 712-792-6440 or [tchristensen@carrollfrc.org](mailto:tchristensen@carrollfrc.org)

This service is available in Audubon, Carroll, Greene and Guthrie Counties.

### GOLD™ Assessment Support

Partnerships 4 Families is offering on going support for Teaching Strategies GOLD Assessment throughout the school year. Corey Sebetka is offering a monthly support meeting and on site consultation to programs using the assessment system.

The monthly support meetings are held the fourth Monday of the month from 6-8 PM at New Opportunities in Carroll. Registration is recommended by emailing Sebetka at [corey.sebetka@yahoo.com](mailto:corey.sebetka@yahoo.com). For on site

consultation contact Sebetka at the same email address.

This opportunity is funded by ECI Preschool Support Funding and is open to any preschool or child care center in our area utilizing the assessment system.

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#### Alphabet Soup:

- NPPS—National Program for Playground Safety
- S.A.F.E.—  
Supervision  
Age Appropriate  
Fall Surfacing  
Equipment  
maintenance

## 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 at the ISU Extension Meeting Room Their next meeting is: **Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> 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, October 20<sup>th</sup> at noon.**

**Greene County** meets on the first Tuesday of the month. Their next meeting is **Tuesday Oct 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:30. This month they will meet at the Greene County Medical Center.**

**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. **December 9<sup>th</sup> 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 November.

Audubon at 4:00 PM  
Thursday November 4<sup>th</sup> at the Audubon ISU Extension Meeting Room

Carroll at 4:00 PM  
Wednesday November 10<sup>th</sup>  
New Opportunities, Rm D

Greene at 4:00 PM  
Tuesday November 9<sup>th</sup>

GC Medical Center Public Health Conference Room

Guthrie at 4:00 PM  
Wednesday November 3<sup>rd</sup>  
at Panorama Elementary

The focus of the November ECTF will be a discussion regarding grandparents raising grandchildren and what the levels of excellence will hold for us.

## DECAT

Nim Knobbe has resigned as the DCAT Coordinator, the DCAT Board is in the process of finding a replacement. If you have questions

regarding DCAT or CPPC please leave them on the following voice mail.

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

*Happiness depends upon ourselves.*

*- Aristotle*

## The Director is Key (Taken from ExchangeEveryDay Sept 23, 2010)

A recent research report by the Urban Institute, “[Understanding Quality in Context: Child Care Centers, Communities, Markets, and Public Policy](#),” recommends that policy makers “focus more on directors’ leadership skills and belief systems when shaping efforts to support quality.” The report concluded....

“The ability of child care center directors to produce good care is shaped by different contextual

factors ranging from a director’s leadership style, management skills, and belief system to parent demand, labor supply, public funding and standards, and access to resources. While the confluence of external factors can make it extremely challenging for directors facing multiple obstacles, a wide range of strategies might be considered as policymakers seek to support higher quality programming. To improve the

quality of the largest number of programs, it is important that initiatives take a comprehensive — and a flexible and individualized — approach. The directors with whom we spoke were clearly all committed to doing their best to support children and families. Initiatives to support early care and education can build on this fundamental strength.”

## Partnerships 4 Families Board Update

The Partnerships 4 Families Board meet on September 17<sup>th</sup> in Coon Rapids. The Board received public input from Pied Pipers, formally accepted the Annual Report, approved new members (Dr David Ohrt and Amy Carpenter), and began discussion regarding content of future meetings.

Their next meeting is Friday

October 15<sup>th</sup> in Coon Rapids at 10:30.

Topics for discussion will include preschool, board membership, future meeting content.

P4F meetings are open to the public. Meeting minutes are on the P4F website and will be posted once they are approved by the board.



## Getting School Ready in Iowa

The **Getting School Ready in Iowa** guide is still available free from Early Childhood Iowa. The **Getting School Ready in Iowa** guide was developed by the Early Childhood Iowa – Quality Services and Programs component group. The guide addresses:

1. What children need to be

ready for kindergarten  
2. What families, early care, health, education providers, and communities can do to prepare children for kindergarten

This is an excellent resource to share with parents of children in pre-school and at kindergarten round-up.

You may preview the content of the guide at [http://www.state.ia.us/earlychildhood/Parents/school\\_readiness\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.state.ia.us/earlychildhood/Parents/school_readiness_brochure.pdf)

To order, please send an e-mail to [hhoch@iastate.edu](mailto:hhoch@iastate.edu) Include the quantity you would like to order, and a complete mailing address. Please note that the booklets cannot be shipped to a P.O. Box.

Partnerships 4 Families  
PO Box 672  
Carroll, IA 51401

cduhrkopf@newopp.org

www.partnerships4families.org

## Every Child Counts Advocacy Training

Every Child Counts is once again providing child advocates with an opportunity to receive free training and materials to strengthen advocacy efforts. The trainings will be offered regionally, in five communities across Iowa during the first week of October. The schedule is as follows:

Davenport – October 4<sup>th</sup>  
Cedar Rapids – October 5<sup>th</sup>  
Mason City – October 6<sup>th</sup>  
Sioux City – October 7<sup>th</sup>  
Des Moines – October 8<sup>th</sup>

Please visit the Every Child Counts website to view the details of this training and to register: <http://www.everychildcountsiowa.org/>

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



### It's About our Kids

On Wednesday, September 1, 2010, Every Child Counts, the advocacy arm for the Child and Family Policy Center, launched [itsaboutourkids.org](http://itsaboutourkids.org) to encourage Iowa voters to raise the visibility of children's issues in the 2010 campaign.

"Two-thirds of the Iowa budget is directed to ensuring the health, safety, education and security of Iowa children and youth, but children's issues receive nowhere near that level of attention during elections," said Sheila Hansen, Director of [Every Child Counts](http://Every Child Counts). "How

our children fare is critical to Iowa's vitality and economic future. Voters need to know how candidates for office will address critical child policy issues."

Available on the site are the responses from Gov. Chet Culver and former Gov. Terry Branstad to a survey developed by 22 Iowa organizations to document candidates' positions on children's issues. The survey covers preschool and K-12 education, childhood poverty, child safety, support for infants and toddlers, after-school programs, and children's

health and mental health.

The website also includes responses from U.S. Senate candidates Chuck Grassley and Roxanne Conlin to a similar set of questions.

"We are grateful to the candidates for responding to the survey and providing their thoughtful comments," said Charles Bruner, Director of the Child and Family Policy Center. "It shows their commitment to and understanding of children's issues as a critical role of state government."