

News 4 You

Partnerships 4 Families

Utilizing our Early Childhood Resources

Ten years ago if you searched for information on the internet about early childhood you probably came up with very few resources. Today we have so many resources on the web we need to discern which are worth using and what does not qualify as reputable information.

A rule of thumb when seeking information is to turn to a site that has a governmental site, education site or a national organization. An example for a governmental site is www.cdc.gov, an educational site is www.extension.iastate.edu or a national organization is www.preventchildabuse.org.

Recently many of the sites in Iowa have been updated that provide us with early childhood, education or

health information. The newsletter this month will focus on some sites that have been updated, we will provide you with reasons to go to these sites and investigate a little more. Encourage yourself to spend a little time each week investigating a new site. You may find research that interests you or resources that you can share with the children and families you serve.



www.aea11.k12.ia.us/

Heartland AEA which covers Audubon, Carroll and Guthrie Counties recently updated their website. They have main links for Parents and Educators with a wealth of early childhood information under both. There are referral forms,

information about Early Access, and current initiatives such as PBIS. AEA's also offer trainings that is open to anyone. A list can be found on the site.

Prairie Lakes AEA that covers Greene County

also recently updated their site and has a wealth of information. Take some time to see what information is available and book mark the site to be checked in the future.

October 2011
Issue 172

Inside this issue:

Guthrie County H.O.P.E.S.	1
Meeting Dates	2
P4F Board	3
Child Care Blog	4

Alphabet Soup:

.gov - site originating from a government agency

.edu-site originating from an educational agency or school

.org- site of an organization

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, October 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, Oct 19th at noon.**

Greene County meets on the first Tuesday of the month. Their next meeting is **Tuesday October 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. **December 8th 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.

Following are the meeting times for November 2011.

Audubon ISU Extension Meeting Room

Carroll at 4:00 PM Tuesday November 17th at New Opportunities, Mr. D

Greene at 4:00 PM Monday November 19th at the GC Medical Center Public Health Conference Room

Center at the Guthrie County Public Health

The focus of the November ECTF will be.....a surprise!! (Cindy's way of saying she has not thought that far ahead! Honesty!).

Audubon at 4:00 PM Wed. November 3rd at the

Guthrie at 4:00 PM Tuesday November 8th in Guthrie

DECAT

The Decategorization Governance Board meets quarterly at:

DHS Office Board Room
608 N. Court St.
Carroll, IA 51401

DCAT Coordinator:
Alayna Clancy
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.

**Humor is
mankind's
greatest blessing.
Mark Twain**

www.educateiowa.org

The Iowa Department of Education recently did an overhaul of their website. If you were a user of the old site you may find the new site a little frustrating. The best way to start to navigate the new system is to use the A to Z Index, type in a topic you are looking for such as QPPS and you will be taken to an alphabetical list where you will find Quality Preschool Program

Standards. Clicking on this link will take you to a wealth of information about QPPS.

The Iowa Department of Education (DE) also provides us with a slew of data on children and districts in our state under their Data & Statics tab. A great resource if writing grants or wanting to know the number of children attending your school district.

The DE also provides information about AEAs, community colleges and our state universities. Not to mention busing regulations, open enrollment policies and much more.

For all topics regarding formal education use this as your resource

Partnerships 4 Families Board Update

The P4F Board met in September and had a very productive meeting. A great deal of business was conducted including approving the area director's evaluation, finalizing the carry forward from FY11 and approving the FY11 Annual Report. Cindy Duhrkopf, Area Director also presented the recommendations of the P4F Preschool Committee, those recommendations were

approved by the P4F Board including a mini grant that will be available to preschools in our area to make improvements to their outdoor learning environments.

The remainder of the meeting was focused on the mental health needs of children in our area.

The P4F Board next meeting is October 21, 2011 beginning at 10:30 AM.

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

School Districts

Ten years ago not one school in our area had a website. Now all 14 districts have a site. They are a great place to find a school calendar, current administration or teaching staff. School websites also provide us with current minutes from school board meetings. If you live in

Greene County and are interested about the upcoming sharing agreements between Jefferson-Scranton and East Greene you can follow that process through the board minutes or press releases.

Working with families? You will find information about kindergarten round up or open houses.

Check out the school districts websites you as a way to know the area you serve better.

Partnerships 4 Families
PO Box 672
Carroll, IA 51401

cduhrkopf@newopp.org

www.partnerships4families.org

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



Keep kids safe online

Being on the Internet is a regular pastime for many kids today. It can seem completely harmless, especially when they go online to do homework or to chat with friends and family.

But there are risks that all families should be aware of. The non-profit Web site www.ikeepsafe.org suggests kids be taught the 3 C's of Internet safety: Contact, Content and Conduct.

> **Contact:** what relationships is your child developing online? Kids need to know that they can't always trust who they are talking to over the Web. Remind them never to give out personal information, such as their name and address.

> **Content:** what information is your child finding and posting online? Make sure your child understands that what they put on the Internet may be there forever, so think before posting.

> **Conduct:** how does your child behave online? Kids should understand that what they say online can help or hurt as much as it does in person. Don't bully and don't tolerate online bullies.

To learn more about online safety, go to www.ikeepsafe.org.

[//www.extension.iastate.edu/homefamily/about_families.htm](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/homefamily/about_families.htm)

Within the last year ISU Extension updated their website to be much more user friendly. The link in the title will take you to the ISU Extension link specifically "About Families". At this site you will find information on early childhood, health and nutrition for families and parenting education to

name. You can receive financial education or information about the new food guidelines. The topics as they pertain to the life span of an individual are there.

Persons can also click on the link titles "Our Offices" to get a map where you can click on a county to get to

their site. Each counties site is set up similar and contains information about staff, programs being offered, or current information.

Be sure to check out ISU Extension and your local counties web site.