

# News 4 You

## Partnerships 4 Families

### Week of the Young Child April 10-16<sup>th</sup>

Today we know more than ever before about the importance of children's earliest years in shaping their learning and development. Yet, never before have the needs of young children and their families been more pressing.

The Week of the Young Child is a time to recognize that children's opportunities are our responsibilities, and to recommit ourselves to ensuring that each and every child experiences the type of early environment--at home, at child care, at school, and in the community--that will promote their early learning.

The Week of the Young Child is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world's largest early childhood education association, with nearly 90,000 members and a network of over 300 local, state, and regional Affiliates.

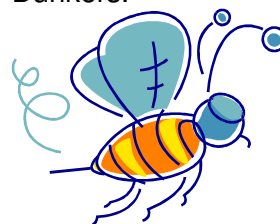
The purpose of the Week of the Young Child is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.

### Toddler Fest in Greene County April 30<sup>th</sup>

Attached to this month's newsletter is a flyer for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Toddler Fest in Greene County. The Toddler Fest is put on by the Greene County Libraries with community support from the Greene County Board of Supervisors and many

volunteers. From 10 AM to Noon on April 30<sup>th</sup> the Greene County Recreation Center is taken over by children 2-5 and their caregivers. Activities that are age appropriate circle the gym including tumbling, blocks, books and more.

The circle ends with a book and a donut hole from Bunkers Dunkers.



April 2011  
Issue 166

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#### Alphabet Soup:

- PCA-Prevent Child Abuse
- RFP-Request for Proposal
- ECTF-Early Childhood Task Force

## 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, April 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, April 20<sup>th</sup> at noon.**

**Greene County** meets on the first Tuesday of the month. Their next meeting is **Tuesday April 5<sup>th</sup> 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. **June 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 April.

Audubon at 4:00 PM  
Monday April 4<sup>th</sup> at the Audubon ISU Extension Meeting Room  
Carroll at 4:00 PM Tuesday April 13<sup>th</sup> at New Opportunities, Rm D  
Greene at 4:00 PM Thursday April 7<sup>th</sup> at the GC Medical Center Public

Health Conference Room  
Guthrie at 4:00 PM Thursday April 14<sup>th</sup> in Panora

The focus of the April ECTF will be legislative session and a brief SWOT analysis of our area.

*Youth has no age.*  
*Pablo Picasso*

## 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.

## Early Childhood Task Force April Meetings

The Partnerships 4 Families Early Childhood Task Force meetings will be held in April in all four of our counties. Please see page two of the newsletter for the date and location of the meetings.

The ECTF meetings will be a time for area early childhood providers to give

input to the Partnerships 4 Families Board regarding the needs in our area. We will conduct a short SWOT analysis of our early childhood services also. SWOT involves listing the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats of a particular issue. In our case it will be early childhood services.

We will also discuss what information we know about funding for programs and any changes that we may see to our area in the next fiscal year.

We hope many providers will be able to attend.

## Partnerships 4 Families Board Update

The P4F Board met on March 18<sup>th</sup>. Cindy Duhrkopf, Area Director provided an update to the board members regarding activities with in our area and information she received at the recent area director's state meeting. She also provided an update regarding the legislative session. Guest presenters included Trisha Christensen

with the child care project and Child Care Resource and Referral Child Care Consultants Katie Riesberg and Sheri Stuva. They all provided information regarding the services they provide to child care centers and providers in our area.

The P4F Board next meeting is April 15, 2011 beginning at 10:30 AM.

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

## Age Calculator

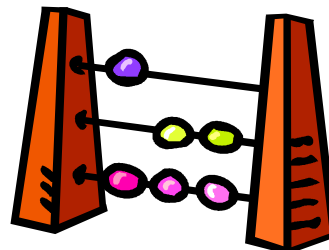
Have you ever had to use your fingers to figure out the age of a four year old? If so there are tools to make it easy. Matter of fact there is probably an app for that!

The one that was recommended to Partnerships 4 Families to use when figuring out the

age of a preschooler is on the Cornell University website at: <http://www-users.med.cornell.edu/~spn/picu/calc/agecalc.htm>

If you want to figure out the age of a child today or on September 16<sup>th</sup> you can utilize this calculator and

save the work out for your fingers and toes.



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



# During Prevent Child Abuse Month Be a good neighbor.

**Reach out to families and children in your community.  
Help families under stress.**

If a family you know seems to be in crisis or under stress, offer to help.

For example, you could:

- ☞ Offer to baby-sit
- ☞ Help with chores and errands
- ☞ Suggest resources in the community that can help the family.

**Be kind to children.**

Get to know the children in your neighborhood. Be kind and supportive to any child—especially if his or her family is under stress.

When neighbors can rely on each other, everyone benefits.

## Head Start Recruitment

As we wait for the Iowa Legislature and Governor to come to a consensus on how to provide funding to preschool age children in our state, keep in mind that Head Start is continuing to recruit children for the fall.

Families with children who will be three or four by September 15<sup>th</sup> of this year and the families income is 100% of the Federal Poverty Level are encouraged to apply.

New Opportunities has classroom in all four of the Partnerships 4 Families counties. Persons living in Audubon or Carroll County should contact Megan Fineran at 712-830-9442. In Greene and Guthrie County contact Shawne Wittrock at 712-830-6990.

On average there are 100 slots in Audubon, Carroll, Greene and Guthrie Counties that serve Head Start children and their

families each year. New Opportunities also serves children in Sac, Calhoun and Dallas counties.

