

Partnerships 4 Families Early Childhood Iowa

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New Year, New Format

Every now and then we need to update the format of our newsletter. We hope you like it.

The P4F News 4 You is a way for us to stay in touch with the early childhood providers in our area. We bring you updates on Early Childhood Iowa from the state level. Local level happenings of the Partnerships 4 Families Board who oversees the Early Childhood Iowa area of Partnerships 4 Families that covers Audubon, Carroll, Greene and Guthrie Counties.

But we also bring you quality resources that are available locally, at the state level or nationally. Our hope is that you will not only learn from the resources we share but will share them with others. In fact, we hope you share our newsletter with others we don't have on our mailing list yet.

Iowa HHS- New Website

Iowa Health and Human Services-Iowa HHS-unveiled a new website in December. The website has brought together all of the departments that merged in July of 2023. This includes the Early Childhood Iowa website. ECI now has a landing page on the HHS site at: hhs.iowa.gov/programs/programs-and-services/eci

On this page you can find information about the State Early Childhood Iowa Board, local boards and what was previously referred to as Tools. Currently the Tools are being placed according to topic matter. If you are looking for a specific Tool please reach out to Cindy, and she will help you navigate the new site or seek help from the state office. We encourage you to make the new website a topic of conversation at your next staff meeting and take time to familiarize staff with it.



UPCOMING EVENTS

**Partnerships 4 Families
Board Meeting
Thursday January 18, 2023
11:00 AM at New Opportunities,
Carroll or via Zoom**

**Legislative Session Begins
Monday January 9, 2024**

Only a generation of readers will spawn a generation of writers.

- Steven Spielberg



Legislative Session

The 2024 Iowa Legislative Session will begin on January 8, 2024. The session is scheduled to go until April 16, 2024. The session this year is shorter to allow legislators time to campaign as November 2024 is an election year for many in the Iowa Legislature.

Persons wanting to stay up to date on the Legislative Session are encouraged to sign up for your local legislator's newsletter or various other newsletters put out by the House Democrats

Or Republicans. The Senate Democrats and Republicans also release updates. It does not matter which party you affiliate with you are welcome to sign up for any public source of information.

There are also organizations such as Common Good Iowa and Prevent Child Abuse Iowa that put out legislative updates. Sign up on their websites.

Be sure to attend your local legislatives coffees too.

1000 Hours Outside

Now is the time to start your yearly log of time spent outside. Don't let the cold weather keep you in, bundle the kids up and head outside for a dose of fresh air and sunshine.

Also, never underestimate the influence of one mom. Ginny Yurich started a blog and now she has a vast following, trackers, books and her blog about the importance of time outside for children and adults.

Hop on over to her website of 1000hoursoutside.com to join the crusade of spending time outdoors.

If you work with families, talk to them about the importance of spending time outside no matter the weather. But also talk about the importance of proper clothing when going outside.



ID.me

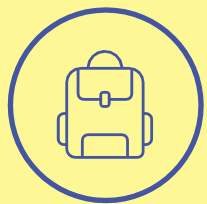
Do you have clients asking about the new ID.me system that Iowa Workforce Development is now using? If so take some time to learn about ID.me. You can find out more information on the [Iowa Workforce site](#).

Many of you may have already used this system if you are applying for federal benefits. It is a safe effective way to verify digitally who you are and will streamline many digital processes.

You may even want to get yourself enrolled for future use.



HRSA launched the Maternal Mental Health Hotline, A new, confidential, toll-free hotline for expecting and new moms experiencing mental health challenges. Moms can call or text 1-833-9-HELP4MOMS (1-833-943-5746) and connect with counselors for mental health support. This resource is available in English and Spanish.



Preschool

Partnerships 4 Families still has Preschool Tuition Assistance Available for participating in a three-year-old programs in our area. The assistance will pay for up to \$150.00 a month of tuition for eligible families. Families' income must be under 200% of the Federal Poverty Level or the child is referred by AEA or other early childhood programs.

Tuition Assistance has been offered by P4F for over 20 years. We have slowly seen a decline in the number of families accessing it or being eligible for assistance.

Help us get the word out to families who may be eligible. Contact Cindy at p4fchildren@gmail.com to learn more.

Notes from Cindy

Last year my professional New Year's Resolution was to embrace technology. This year I think am going to brag about all I embraced!! LOL

Seriously though, many of us rely on technology to function in our jobs. Whether it is just email or data base systems you are working with it is a big part of our working lives. I want to thank those that allowed me to learn more about what Zoom has to offer if you were

sitting at a meeting with me. Or maybe you watched while I navigated hooking up Zoom at our coalition meetings. I have to admit that being in a learning mind frame while I was doing all that helped me remain calm, cool and collective while learning.

Have you thought about setting a professional New Year's Resolution? If not, there is still time, the year is just started.



Local Libraries and Early Childhood

Each month we would like to highlight a local library in this section and talk about what they are doing to promote early literacy to the children in their community.

First off is the Glidden Public Library!! WOW they are doing a wonderful job of highlighting the children who are reaching each milestone in the 1000 Books before Kindergarten. Follow along on their Facebook page to see the smiling faces of the children.

Find them on Facebook at: Glidden Public Library.

Check out their 2nd Annual Stuffed Sleepover that is coming up.

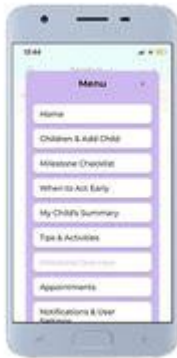


ECI Designation

P4F is currently updating their Early Childhood Community plan to align with the state plan while taking into considerations local needs. Information has been gathered at Early Childhood Task Force meetings the previous year that will go into the updated plan.

The plan will also incorporate the new ECI Local Area Data developed by I2D2.

CDC's Milestone Tracker App



Milestones matter! Track your child's milestones from age 2 months to 5 years with CDC's easy-to-use illustrated checklists; get tips from CDC for encouraging your child's development; and find out what to do if you are ever concerned about how your child is developing.

From birth to age 5, your child should reach milestones in how he or she plays, learns, speaks, acts, and moves. Photos and videos in this app illustrate each milestone and make tracking them for your child easy and fun!

Features:

- **Add a Child** – add a photo and enter personalized information about your child or multiple children
- **Milestone Tracker** – track your child's developmental progress by looking for important milestones using an interactive, illustrated checklist
- **Checklists Adjust for Prematurity** – uses [corrected age](#) for babies born prematurely
- **Milestone Photos and Videos** – know what each milestone looks like so that you can better identify them in your own child
- **Tips and Activities** – support your child's development at every age
- **When to Act Early** – know when it's time to “act early” and talk with your child's doctor about developmental concerns
- **Milestone Summary** – get a summary of your child's milestones to view, and share with or email to your child's doctor and other important care providers
- **Well Visit Snapshot** – keep track of information received during your child's doctor visits with this helpful tool
- **Helpful Resources for Families** – learn about local programs that can help support your child's development
- **Appointments** – keep track of your child's doctors' appointments and get reminders about recommended developmental screenings

**Partnerships 4 Families is the Early Childhood Iowa Area
Designated to serve Audubon, Carroll, Greene, and Guthrie Counties**

PO Box 672 Carroll, Iowa 51040

www.partnerships4families.org Email: p4fchildren@gmail.com

Community Coalition Meetings

Community coalition meetings are intentional meetings of community members and service providers gathering to network for the benefit of the people they serve. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Audubon County meets at 11:30 AM on the 2nd Wednesday of the month in January, April, July & October at the ISU Extension meeting room in Audubon. Their next meeting is **Wednesday January 10, 2024 at 11:30 AM**. Offered in person and via Zoom

Carroll County meets at noon on the third Wednesday of five times a year in Feb, April, June, Sept, Nov. Their next meeting is **Wednesday at Noon on February 21 @ noon at ISU Extension Meeting Room in Carroll** Offered in person and maybe via Zoom

Greene County meets on the first Tuesday of the month five times a year at noon at ISU Extension in Jefferson. The five months are Feb, April, June, Sept & Nov. Their next meeting is **Tuesday February 6, 2024**. Offered in person and maybe via Zoom

Guthrie County meets at noon four times a year in March, June, September and December on the second Thursday of the month at the ISU Extension meeting room in Guthrie Center. Their next meeting is **Thursday March 14, 2024 at noon**. Offered in person and maybe via Zoom

The meetings are offered in person and via Zoom. The Zoom link for all the above-mentioned meetings can be found on New Opportunities website at: <https://www.newopp.org/county-resources/coalitions>