

Partnerships 4 Families Early Childhood Iowa Area for Audubon, Carroll, Greene and Guthrie Counties

Early Childhood Iowa

An initiative to empower individuals and their communities to achieve desired results to improve the quality of life for children ages birth-5 years of age and their families.



Audubon, Carroll, Greene
and Guthrie Counties

In Every Edition

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Child Advocacy

Child advocacy. Child advocacy refers to a range of individuals, professionals and **advocacy** organizations who speak out on the best interests of **children**. An individual or organization engaging in **advocacy** typically seeks to protect **children's** rights which may be abridged or abused in a number of areas. - Wikipedia

Since children can't vote we need to advocate for them whether it is at the local, state or national level. Examples of ways to advocate:

Locally: Encourage your Board of Supervisors to support your local library and its children's programs at a higher level this year.

State: Attend a legislative forum and ask a question regarding child care or some other early childhood issue.

National: Free and Reduce Lunch funding is under attack at the federal level. Write your Senator or Representative and tell them how important that is to 35-50% of the families in our local school districts.

These are examples, find your own cause and speak to the people that represent you. Need help finding your legislator go to:

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators>

Don't be Cooped up Get Outside

The state initiative 5-2-1-0 recommends daily: 5- fruits and vegetables, 2 hours or less of screen time, 1 hour of physical activity and 0 sugary drinks. It says nothing about taking the winter off in regards to physical activity. So let's talk winter weather and safety.

Healthy Child Care Iowa has the best resource that provides guidance

to child care providers and families on when it is safe for children to be outside in winter weather. You can download their form at: <https://idph.iowa.gov/Portals/1/Files/HCCI/weatherwatch.pdf>

Being outside has a multitude of benefits to young children even on a chilly winter day. So if the temperature is appropriate go get that hours of activity.

Community Human Resource Coalitions

Community coalition meetings are intentional meetings of human service providers and community members 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, June & October at the ISU Extension meeting room in Audubon. Their next meeting is: **Wednesday April 8th, at 11:30.**

Carroll County meets at noon on the third Wednesday of every other month at ISU Extensions Meeting Room in Carroll. Their next meeting is: **Wednesday at Noon on February 19th. Now meeting every other month. Mental Health Coalition meets on the opposite months.**

Greene County meets on the first Tuesday of the month at noon at ISU Extension in Jefferson. They do take July & August off. Their next meeting is:

Tuesday February 4th at Noon No July or August Meetings

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 12th at noon.**

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



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

P4F Early Childhood Task Force

P4F will convene an all-day Early Childhood Task Force meeting on April 1st with a twist. We will meet in each of our four counties all on the same day. We invite you to tag along with us or just attend the meeting in your county.

The focus of the meetings will be to receive final input on our early childhood community plan.

We are still finalizing a fun location in Carroll to kick off our day, but we will be meeting at the ISU Extension meetings rooms in the other counties.

Carroll County-8:00 AM TBD

Greene County 10:00 AM
Greene Co ISU Extension

Guthrie County 12:30 PM
Guthrie County ISU Extension

Audubon County 3:00 PM
Audubon County ISU Extension

P4F Board Update

The P4F Board did not meet in January due to six inches of snow and ice. ☺

The focus of their next meeting is Family Support.

All meetings are open to the public. Board minutes can be found on the P4F Website.

The next P4F Board meeting is scheduled for:

February 21, 2020
At 10:30 AM

in Carroll at New Opportunities

Partnerships 4 Families

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We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.partnerships4families.org

Persons in the Spot Light-Snow Plow Drivers

It was Mr. Rogers who said, "Look for the helpers." This time of year we can look to the helpers who are snow plow drivers. If you get the opportunity thank them but also teach the children and families, you work with to thank them.

Come one inch or ten the employees of our cities, county and state are out moving

the snow at all hours of the day.

There are many community helpers in our area that we rely on to make it safe for young children.

If you know of one, please send them our thanks from P4F.



P4F Funding Application available February 26, 2020

P4F will release their application (RFA) for FY21 funding on February 26, 2020. In accordance with contracting policies this year all programs will be required to submit a full application. The due date is yet to be determined. As of now the P4F Board will meet on May 15th to determine funding allocations.

P4F was fortunate this year to have some carry forward funding that was put toward some small projects in your area. It is unknown at this point if we will have that opportunity next fall.



