

Partnerships 4 Families Early Childhood Iowa

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Birthday's

Do families you serve celebrate their child's birthday in a big way or not at all?

For those families that don't have the funds to celebrate a child's birthday what could we as early childhood providers do?

Would you be interested in participating in a drive to collect items that can be given to families you serve when their child is having a birthday?

The items may include:

- Cake mixes
- Pan
- Napkins
- Plates
- Favors
- Decorations

Let Cindy know if you are interested in assisting with something like this.

Week of the Young Child

The National Association for the Education of Young Children-NAEYC each year hosts The Week of the Young Child. This year it is April 6-12.

<https://www.naeyc.org/events/woyc>

Each day has a theme, and you are welcome to join in the fun.

- Music Monday
- Tasty Tuesday
- Work Together Wednesday
- Artsy Thursday
- Family Friday

Many day care providers in our area will be doing special things each day. But Week of the Young Child is not just for child care. Families are encouraged to join in the fun and plan activities as well.

Just imagine listening to some new music on Monday. Making a new dish on Tuesday, volunteering on Wednesday, a craft project on Thursday and doing something with family and friends on Friday. Let's celebrate!



UPCOMING EVENTS

**Partnerships 4 Families
Board Meeting
Thursday April 18, 2023
11:00 AM at New Opportunities,
Carroll or via Zoom
The March meeting was not held.**

Week of the Young Child

WOYC

April 6-12



2024

Milestones

[CDC's Developmental Milestones](#) or Milestones as many early childhood providers refer to them have been utilized as a basis for childhood development since 2004. Milestones are research based and written by experts in the field of child development.

Take some time to become familiar with the site and be sure to share the information with families you serve.



Parents as well as early childhood professionals are encouraged to utilize them as their best source of information regarding child development. There is everything from printable sheets, videos, checklists and apps that can be accessed on the CDC website.

P4F Office

Due to a few fun family life events, I will be out of the office more this spring than ever before. An out of office reply will be posted to know when I am gone. But don't fear, I will respond when I return.

The dates include:
The first week or so of April.
Extended Memorial Weekend

Cindy

Do you have content?

Do you have content you would like to share in our newsletter with other early childhood providers in our area? You are welcome to submit information to Cindy by the 20th of the month.



Prevent Child Abuse

April is Prevent Child Abuse Month. Does your organization do anything special to promote safe environments for children?

Consider doing something in the month of April to bring awareness to the abuse, maltreatment or neglect of children.

Iowa Child Care Workforce

The 2023 Iowa Child Care Workforce Study is available for people interested in learning more about the state of child care in Iowa. The report is available on the I2D2 website. Site: i2d2.iastate.edu

In May, Ashley Otte from Iowa AEYC will present a summary of the report to the Carroll County

Growth Partnership. If you would like to attend this meeting, please reach out to Cindy.

Child care is impacting families in our area due to the lack of staff child care centers are able to recruit.

Notes from Cindy

Milestones!! I am having a milestone in April. On April 8th I will have been with Partnerships 4 Families for 24 years. For three years prior to that I was working on a grant funded project funded by DCAT & ECI. So, I often get confused as to how long I have been working with children and families in Audubon, Carroll, Greene and Guthrie Counties. But they have all been good years.

The biggest change I have seen in our area since 2000 is the number of child care centers that have developed and the number of home providers we have lost.

The thing that never changes is the wonderful birth of new babies into loving and caring families that continue to grow our communities.

Cindy



Preschool

Preschools in our area are currently enrolling for the 2024-25 school year. If families have not seen information posted in their communities or on their school's website, they are encouraged to call the school district directly or the private preschool they wish to attend.

Partnerships 4 Families keeps a list of preschools in each of our counties on the early childhood county brochures. Those brochures can be located on our website at:

<https://www.partnerships4families.org/resources>



ECI Designation

Work continues on updating the P4F Early Childhood Community Plan. We are nearing the time when we will ask early childhood providers to gather and assist in the development of our focus for the next three years.

Mark your calendars for Monday June 3rd at 2:00 for a Zoom meeting. Link and information to follow.

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Healthy Choices Count!

2023-2024 FEATURE CALENDAR

JULY 2023 Set Down Screens 	AUGUST 2023 Visit Local Markets 	SEPTEMBER 2023 Quick and Healthy Cooking 	OCTOBER 2023 Healthiest State Month! 	NOVEMBER 2023 Make Time for Your Health and Family 	DECEMBER 2023 Stay Active in the Winter: Indoors & Outdoors
JANUARY 2024 New Years Resolution: Drink More Water! 	FEBRUARY 2024 Show Your Heart Some Love! 	MARCH 2024 Snack Healthy 	APRIL 2024 Trying New Foods and Foreign Flavors 	MAY 2024 Mental Health Matters 	JUNE 2024 Family Physical Activity

www.IowaHealthiestState.com

Sign up to receive information about 5-2-1-0. Let's all work together to make Iowa the Healthiest State.

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

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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 April 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 April 17, 2024 @ 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 April 2, 2024 at noon**. 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 June 13, 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>