

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

Community Resource
Meeting Dates

P4F Board Meeting
Overview

Updates



Preschool and Head Start Recruitment

The start of next year's school year may seem a long way away, but for preschools and Head Start sites they are thinking ahead and hope that families of children 3 and 4 are also planning ahead.

Each school district manages recruitment for preschool differently. Some have a survey indicating interests, some do developmental screenings and others have an open house.

Head Start does outreach directly to families to determine eligibility. No matter the avenue the goal is to gain information about the number of children that will be enrolling in the fall. Classrooms have a certain number of students that can be served and early enrollment allows the school district and Head Start to know how many classrooms they will need and how many teachers.

All the school districts and Head Start family advocates ask that if you are working with families to encourage them to contact the school district office in their area to ask about registration or to watch the school districts website. Even if a family thinks they may be moving before fall they should go ahead and register with their local school or Head Start.

Iowa Assoc. for Infant & EC Mental Health

Are you aware that Iowa has an Iowa Association for Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health? If not check out their website for information and resources surround the topic. There are also many short webinars some of them specifically about services in Iowa.

<http://promotingmentalhealthiowa.org/>

The topic of childhood mental health came up at the recent designation visit for our area and we are going to explore what we can do as an area to support parents and children more. If you would like to be part of a workgroup on this topic, please reach out Cindy.

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 14, 2021 at 11:30 AM** A Zoom link will be sent by Mollie Scott.

Carroll County meets at noon on the third Wednesday of every other month. Their next meeting is: **Wednesday at Noon on April 21, 2021 @ New Opportunities Meeting Room in Carroll.** 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 April 6, 2021 at Noon via Zoom**, a link will be sent by Nancy Rowedder.

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 10th at noon. We will be meeting in person.**

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

If you do not receive a link to any of the meetings email us at p4fchildren@gmail.com



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

P4F Early Childhood Task Force

Family Engagement was the topic up for discussion at our Early Childhood Task Force meeting on March 25th that was attended by P4F Board members and early childhood providers.

Tips and tricks on how to engage families was discussed. At this time the majority of the early childhood providers are still conducting virtual interaction with families and providers but are considering steps to return to face to face interactions.

Please consider promoting one of the following initiatives through your program.

[5-2-1-0 Healthy Choices](#) [Count the Kicks](#)
1000 Books before Kindergarten 2000 Days [CDC Milestones](#)

P4F Board Update

Board members took March off from meeting but tried to attend the ECTF meeting to hear from early childhood providers in our area.

Next Meeting is:
Thursday April 22, 2021
11:00 AM CST Via Zoom

The meetings are open to the public a link to the Zoom meeting is posted on the agenda for the meeting that is posted on our website 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

Partnerships 4 Families

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.partnerships4families.org

If you would like to learn more about Early Childhood Iowa and Partnerships 4 Families reach out to our Area Director Cindy Duhrkopf @ p4fchildren@gmail.com

Partnerships 4 Families has included you in our list serve to keep you informed about activities in Audubon, Carroll, Greene and Guthrie Counties. If you no longer want to receive updates please email us at p4fchildren@gmail.com

Child Care Challenge Grants

Congratulations to the four child care centers in our area that received the Child Care Challenge Grant from Future Ready Iowa and DHS. Funding will be used to expand access to child care in our area.

Breda Day Care	\$91,340
Greene County Early Learning Center	\$469,941
Lil'Wildcats Education Center, Glidden	\$175,076
Little Panther Daycare, Panora	\$184,674

Also Little Hawks Child Care Center in Manilla just over the Carroll County boarder received \$101,240 to establish a new center.

Congratulations and we look forward to seeing your new rooms or centers in the near future.

P4F Is Updating Brochures

Since 2006 Partnerships 4 Families has partnered with early childhood providers to offer a brochure that is a "one stop shop" for early childhood programs. We update these brochures every 2-3 years and this is our year to update them. Please look over the brochures and let us know if there are updates that need made.

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

P4F also offers a website with links to early childhood programs and services in our four counties. Be sure to tell families about it.

[HTTPS://WWW.PARTNERSHIPS4FAMILIES.ORG/LOCALAGENCIES.PHP](https://www.partnerships4families.org/localagencies.php)



