

Partnerships 4 Families Early Childhood Iowa

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GO Bag

Parents do you have a GO Bag? Grandparents do you have a GO Bag? A GO Bag is a bag filled with activities that small children can do on the GO. Why a GO bag?

Young children are often carted along to their older siblings activities but find themselves bored which leads to poor behaviors. It might also be a time of day when they are hungry and tired.

In steps the GO Bag. A bag filled with small activities that will keep them occupied in a car, on a blanket, in the stands or where ever life takes them. Small activities and books to keep the children active and learning while waiting. Be sure to include healthy food as meal times may be pushed back due to fall schedules.

A GO Bag is an excellent way to cut down on screen time.

Grandparents don't feel left out, you can put together a GO Bag for your vehicle too.

What would you put in a GO Bag?

P4F Website

The P4F website is available to be a one stop shop for early childhood resources. I recent up date of our community resources found we may be missing some key agencies. Please take the time to check out our website and let us know if you want to be listed or you have a resource you would

recommend. Share our site with families as a resource for them too.

You can also find past newsletters, meeting agendas and minutes on the site.

Help us keep it current.

Upcoming Meetings

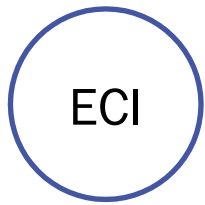
Partnerships 4 Families
Thursday September 19, 2024
11:00 AM at New Opportunities,
Carroll or via Zoom

The board will meet again in
November.

Survey says....

We are currently assessing where in the four county area there is the best play equipment for children 1-3 years old. Email Cindy with pictures or names of parks where the play equipment is safe for our youngest children.

City leaders and county conservation departments often over look equipment for children 1-3 years of age. We would like to find good examples to share with others. So head to the park and send us some pictures to p4fchildren@gmail.com.



P4F Board Members

P4F is looking for two additional board members to round out our team for FY25. Recent legislation did away with the requirement to have a gender balanced board but P4F has always strived to have equal representation and so we are looking for two male board members. We could use more representation from Carroll and Greene County. We do still need to have representation from education, health, human service, faith, business and a consumer. If the new members

would have a health, human service or business back ground that would provide us with a well rounded board.

Visit with your friends and neighbors who love children and ask if they want to give of their time in advocating for the children in their county.

If they are interested reach out to Cindy and she will follow up with more information.

Child Care Connect

The Iowa Dept of HHS has launched a new website to assist parents in finding child care. The site is referred to as Iowa Child Care Connect. childcareconnect.iowa.gov

The site was developed to form a central online hub for finding openings and enrollments in Iowa. Technology will enable timely updates for families, providers and the state on the status of child care across the state.



Data

Are you looking for data to complete a report, write a grant or share with your decision making community members.

Iowa has a unique site that houses data from across agencies in Iowa that pertain to young children. It is referred to as I2D2. The site is available to the public at www.i2d2.iastate.edu.

Check it out and bookmark it for future use.

Behavioral Health Bill Update

On August 1st Iowa HHS released a map showing the seven new behavior health districts. The next step is for the state to release an RFP that allows ASO (Authorized Service Organizations) to manage the areas. While this process does not directly effect Early Childhood Iowa we are watching it closely as it may effect future decisions made by HHS.

Child Care Staffing Needs

August always bring a bit of stress to our area child care centers. As summer staff head back to school or former high school students head off to college the need for new staff increased drastically.

How can you help? If you know of persons looking for employment and love children encourage them to apply at their local center.

But also think of high school students you know who can work after school. Child care centers are a great place for persons considering a career in education to gain exposure to children. And don't just think of the high school girls, boys are welcome too. School age kids love the guys that work at the centers.

Follow your local child care center on Facebook to learn more.

Notes from Cindy

Ahhh September!!! What is not to like about this month, other than the little black bugs that sometimes come out. 😬 This year fall was a little different in my office. P4F has offered tuition assistance for 22 years and I am always busy processing the applications. At one time we had over 150 children we were serving but the last few years it has been under 20. Even though we are not offering the assistance we still want to help

connect families of three year olds, to resources that may assist them in paying for preschool tuition if their child is in need of that experience to help further their school readiness.

Please reach out to me if you know of a family who is in need.

Cindy

Family Support

Iowa is one of the leading states in the nation to offer a variety of family support programs for children 0-5 and their families. Locally we have three such programs:

Early Head Start, a federally funded program offered through New Opportunities

H.O.P.E.S. a program funded by P4F and with some county support.

FaDDS a state and federally funded program for families receiving FIP. Children in the home can be over five.

If you know of a family who has young children and could use the support of someone walking along side them as they navigate the first few years of being parent encourage them to reach out. Contact information can be found on our website.

Fall Festivals

Fall Festivals have become more popular than a hot 4th of July event. In our area the biggest may be Exira's Fall Festival. This year it will be held on September 28th. There are also fall festivals at orchards, the biggest in our area is Deal's Orchard in Jefferson. Wherever you wander enjoy fall.

Head Start is Still Enrolling

The Head Start preschool program is currently taking applications for the upcoming school year. Child has to be 3 or 4 by September 15, 2024. They are an income-based program that provides active learning experiences, nutritious snacks and meals, and help families connect with community resources. Interested families can fill out an interest form at www.newopp.org or contact Magen at 712-830-9442 for Audubon and Carroll Counties and Diane for Greene and Guthrie County.

**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 October 9, 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 September 18, 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 September 3, 2024 at noon**. *Offered in person and 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 September 12, 2024 at noon**. *Offered in person and 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>