



Early ACCESS
Wednesday Wonders
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Welcome to the Early ACCESS (EA) Wednesday Wonders! The purpose of this newsletter is to have a consistent, predictable way for EA stakeholders to stay current on happenings as well as share information with other stakeholders such as practical advice, training announcements, video clips, and/or success stories. It is a newsletter for stakeholders, by stakeholders. Please let me know if you have something you would like to contribute or have suggestions or comments at: melissa.schnurr@iowa.gov

To view archived Wednesday Wonders, visit the Iowa Family Support Network [website](#).

The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing. – Walt Disney

Wondering about FGRBI?

Using Video Technology to Enhance Coaching in Early Intervention:

Though this was filmed in New Mexico, the exact video could have been recorded in Iowa – the content (family guided routines based intervention), the professional development process, and the video sharing platform are exactly what we use in Early ACCESS in Iowa. [This video](#) illustrates a pilot project in New Mexico in which early intervention practitioners video record their home visits, post the videos to a private video sharing and collaboration platform ([TORSH Talent](#)), and receive coaching on their application of new practices.



Wondering about Service Coordination?

FREE Cultural Competency Online Modules:

Recently, the US Department of Health & Human Services launched an [online program](#) to help behavioral health professionals improve their cultural competency. Although the content is not made for service coordinators and early interventionists specifically, it still applies to the work with families of infants and toddlers. The estimated time to complete all 4 Courses is 5 hours. Courses 1 and 2 take approximately 1 hour each. Courses 3 and 4 take approximately 1.5 hours each. CEUs are offered for social workers and nurses, among others.

In case you were wondering....

New Statewide IDEA Data System:

The Special Education Task Team for the new statewide IDEA system met September 11th. The Special Education Task Team is comprised of Area Education Agency, Department of Education, Department of Public Health, and Local Education Agency representatives. The team wants to share the following information:

Early ACCESS Vision: Every infant and toddler with or at risk for a developmental delay and their families will be supported and included in their communities so that the children will be healthy and successful.

- The name of the new system will be ACHIEVE. The tagline will be finalized soon.
- The following Google site has been setup to share information and progress of the new IDEA system. Bookmark this site to keep up with the latest updates. <https://sites.google.com/view/iowaachieveupdates/home>
- The Special Education Task Team will be meeting more frequently and will continue to discuss ways to gather input from the field.
- No roll out date has been announced, but work is underway.

Specific Strategies to Support Dual Language Learners (DLLs) When Adults Do Not Speak Their Language:

One section of the Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center (ECLKC) website was designed for early childhood professionals who are supporting young children who are dual language learners and who speak only languages other than English. Visit this [website](#) to find extensive resources related to environments, interactions, and practices that support children who are DLLs. The resources are also available in [Spanish](#).

Something wonderful is happening....

Recorded Webinar on Sensory Preferences:

The DEC Early Intervention Community of Practice (CoP) hosted Winnie Dunn, PhD, OTR, FAOTA on September 5. The recording of her webinar titled, "Harnessing Sensory Preferences to Guide Everyday Life: Everybody Wins!" is stored on the [CoP page](#). DEC Communities of Practice are open to members and non-members.

The Basics: Five Fundamental Principles to Support Early Development:

On Tuesday, October 29, 2019 at 2-3pm Central, the [National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management](#) is hosting a webinar to illustrate the five key principles of early intervention identified by Dr. Ronald Ferguson as "The Basics." Originally designed to help eliminate inequities that hold back poor and minority children from achieving, "The Basics" are very similar to the principles and strategies we use to develop early communication skills in children who have hearing loss. Application of these five fundamental principles to our work with children who are deaf/hard of hearing and their families can help these children to develop the foundations for social interaction, language, and literacy. "The Basics" is a simple yet powerful tool for caregivers and professionals. [Register here.](#)

For more information about Early Childhood Iowa, visit: <https://earlychildhood.iowa.gov>

For more information about Early ACCESS, visit: www.iafamilysupportnetwork.org or contact:

Cindy Weigel, Early ACCESS State Coordinator
Iowa Department of Education
Bureau of Learner Strategies & Supports
Des Moines, IA 50319
Phone 515-314-9396
Email cindy.weigel@iowa.gov

or Melissa Schnurr, CSPD Consultant
Iowa Department of Education
Bureau of Learner Strategies & Supports
Des Moines, IA 50319
Phone 515-419-9471
Email melissa.schnurr@iowa.gov