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.

Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.
– Harriet Tubman

Wondering about FGRBI?

Family-Professional Partnerships – The Key To Successful Early Intervention:
The foundation of early intervention is partnership between the early interventionists and the family – the “FG” (family guided) in “FGRBI”. This free CONNECT module describes effective practices for developing trusting family-professional partnerships.

Wondering about Service Coordination?

Can A Service Coordinator Coach Families? Absolutely!
On October 30, Dana Childress and Melissa Schnurr, co-chairs of the DEC Service Coordination Community of Practice (DEC SC CoP), facilitated a web conversation to share how service coordinators can and do coach families. Visit the DEC SC CoP page to view the recording and download the handout. And if you haven’t already, join the CoP (also on the linked page) to be the first to know about upcoming web conversations and receive twice monthly SC-related resources.

In case you were wondering….

Three-Part Video Series – Three Core Concepts in Early Development:
Healthy development in the early years provides the building blocks for educational achievement, economic productivity, responsible citizenship, lifelong health, strong communities, and successful parenting of the next generation. This three-part video series from the Center on the Developing Child and the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child depicts how advances in neuroscience, molecular biology, and genomics now give us a much better understanding of how early experiences are built into our bodies and brains, for better or for worse.

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.
Resource for Families – Guide to Vision Health for Your Newborn, Infant, and Toddler:
This comprehensive resource from Prevent Blindness offers information on a variety of topics, including common milestones for visual development, how to help a baby’s vision to develop, warning signs of possible vision problems, and more.

Something wonderful is happening….

Free Infant/Toddler Webinar Series – Exploring STEAM:
The National Center on Early Childhood Development, Teaching and Learning is hosting a webinar series with Infant/Toddler Teacher Time sessions (Dec. 3, Feb. 4, and April 7 from 2-3pm CT) focusing on science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) concepts. Each month, review a STEAM component and tips for using art to reinforce learning. Explore strategies and teaching practices that help infants and toddlers develop reasoning, creativity, problem-solving, and language and communication skills. Participants will have a chance to ask questions related to children’s development of STEAM concepts and skills. Register for each webinar here.

Opportunity For Families with Children with Special Health Care Needs:
The 5th Iowa Family Leadership Training Institute will be held in the spring 2020 and is recruiting family applicants to participate. For more information, review the flyer (English, Spanish) and FAQ. Families can apply here before January 17, 2020 to be considered.

Survey to Complete If You Are a Child Care Provider:
Iowa AEYC and the Child and Family Policy Center are collecting information on the impact of the State’s Child Care Assistance (CCA) program in response to the new rates that went into effect in January, 2019. Your participation in this survey is highly appreciated and valuable to our efforts in supporting and building a strong early childhood education workforce. This survey is for child care programs including family child care providers and child care centers.

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