



Early ACCESS
Wednesday Wonders
January 8, 2020
Vol. 57, No. 109



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](#).

You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream. – Les Brown

Wondering about FGRBI?

Iowa Early ACCESS Announces Three FGRBI Master Coaches:

We are so excited to present Iowa's new [Family Guided Routines Based Interventions](#) (FGRBI) Master coaches: Alison Duncan (Des Moines Public Schools), Ann Hagensick (Keystone AEA), and Kim Johnson (Prairie Lakes AEA)! These three coaches have demonstrated a high degree of fidelity in their own practice (using at least 80% of the key indicators), in coaching others to fidelity (10 providers each are practicing to fidelity), and in offering professional development within their agencies. We are so very proud of their achievements, and they will be instrumental in future efforts to train new internal coaches and providers in their AEAs. With their leadership and that of all the internal coaches in Iowa, we are sustaining and growing FGRBI in Iowa. Alison, Ann, and Kim, thank you for all your hard work and the impact you have on families across the state!

Wondering about Service Coordination?

Child Health Specialty Clinics – Family Navigators:

Many families new to the world of special health care diagnoses, or going through new challenges, find that talking with another family member, someone who has "been there," helps. [Family Navigators](#) are parents or caregivers who have:

- Had similar challenges;
- Felt the same feelings of grief, sadness, loss, and joy;
- Found ways to take care of themselves and their families.

Family Navigators can help families lower their stress so they can manage their child's care a little more easily. They work with families to provide emotional support, systems navigation, and connections to community resources. To contact a Child Health Specialty Clinics Family Navigator call 1-866-219-9119 or email familynavigator@uiowa.edu.



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.

In case you were wondering....

Specially Designed Instruction in Preschool – Highlights from Glenwood Community School District:

On December 17, 2019, the Iowa Department of Education released an [article](#) that highlights the work being done in Iowa to scale-up specially designed instruction in preschools. The article does a fantastic job of illustrating how adapting an environment for those children on IEPs benefits everyone, including the adults. There are also some mentions of Early ACCESS and the process used to transition children from Early ACCESS to Early Childhood Special Education.

Higher Ed and Professional Development Providers – Early Childhood Intervention Cross-Disciplinary Competencies:

In the fall of 2019, the [Early Childhood Personnel Center](#) released [Early Childhood Intervention Cross-Disciplinary Competencies](#), which are meant for faculty at institutes of higher education as well as in-service professional development providers and team leads. Representatives from the American Occupational Therapy Association; the American Physical Therapy Association; the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association; the Council for Exceptional Children and the Division for Early Childhood; the National Association for the Education of Young Children; and Zero to Three were involved in the development of these cross-disciplinary competencies – the common areas of knowledge, skills, and attitudes across all personnel serving young children age birth to five years with disabilities and their families. A task team lead by the Iowa Department of Education reviewed the competencies and has chosen to support their use in Iowa. Contact Melissa Schnurr with questions (Melissa.schnurr@iowa.gov).

Something wonderful is happening....

Free Webinar – Robin McWilliam Sharing about Supporting Families:

Registration is now open for Robin McWilliam's Early Intervention Community of Practice (CoP) Webinar on Thursday, January 16 from 1:00-2:30 p.m. CT. The title of the presentation is "Supporting Families in Quotidian Activities." The one-hour presentation will be followed by a 30-minute interactive Q&A period facilitated by M'Lisa Shelden and Dathan Rush. Register [here](#). Space is limited, so if you register, please plan to attend. The recording and handouts will be made available on the [website](#).

Free Webinar – Supporting a Diverse Early Childhood Workforce: Lessons Learned from a Community of Practice:

In this webinar on January 14 from 2-3pm CT, learn how the structure of a virtual community of practice (CoP) helped participants discover key components needed to support a diverse ECE workforce. Hear about lessons learned. Discover how the states involved plan to enhance their ability to support their ECE workforce to meet their professional development goals. The National Centers on Early Childhood Quality Assurance (NCECQA) and Early Childhood Development, Teaching, and Learning (NCECDTL) will co-present this webinar. 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:

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