



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](mailto:melissa.schnurr@iowa.gov)

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

*Better a witty fool than a foolish wit.* – William Shakespeare

## Service Coordinator Shout-Out (New Spotlight on Service Coordinators in Iowa)

### Shout-Out to Green Hills AEA Service Coordinator – Michala Pedersen:

Michala is a wealth of knowledge and a wonderful advocate for the families of Green Hills AEA. She exemplifies the team approach when meeting the needs of the family and always ensures parents feel heard, valued and included. Michala is also creative in organizing and scheduling services to meet the dynamics of our team. Michala goes above and beyond by volunteering to meet with families 1:1 to assist in complicated paperwork task such as waiver programs, grant applications and mileage reimbursement. She facilitates open and honest communication within our team and with families. She not only coordinates our services but provides input to help us grow and improve. All of this while working full time, completing her masters degree, raising a young family and being an active volunteer in her community. We are thankful for you, Michala!



If you work with an outstanding Service Coordinator, submit their information [here](#) to be included in a future Shout-Out.

## Wondering about Service Coordination?

### Register for the next DEC Service Coordination Community of Practice Web Conversation:

The next [DEC Service Coordination Community of Practice](#) (SC CoP) Web Conversation is from 1-2pm CT on May 14, 2020. To ensure you receive the zoom information to join the webinar, [complete this form](#) by the end of the day May 6, 2020. Sarah Nichols and Maria Kastanis, both from Illinois, will be facilitating a conversation about partnering with families to meet their needs.

## In case you were wondering....

### Autism Nutrition Fact Sheet:

Ninety percent of children with autism are considered "picky eaters", often eating just a few different foods. This [handout](#) describes common characteristics of autism and the effect they have on eating and explains how a dietitian can help as part of a team to address common health concerns.

*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.*

### **Caring for the Health and Wellness of Children Experiencing Homelessness:**

This [tip sheet](#) from the [National Center on Early Childhood Health and Wellness](#) summarizes the definition and causes of homelessness, then shifts to focus on strategies for supporting the health and wellbeing of children for whom that is an issue.

### **Sign-up for Text4FamilyServices – Service for Family Support Providers:**

[Text4FamilyServices](#) is a text messaging service for family services providers. When you sign up, you will receive:

- Two free text messages per month with information, tips, research, and links to helpful resources that will help you strengthen your work with children and families
- Announcements about upcoming events and professional development opportunities
- Access to the latest parent, family, and community engagement (PFCE) resources as soon as they are released

The service is also available in [Spanish \(español\)](#)!

## **Something wonderful is happening....**

### **Free Webinar – Behavior Has Meaning:**

Join a webinar on Wednesday, April 8 from 2-3pm CT sponsored by the [National Center on Early Childhood Development, Teaching and Learning](#). Children communicate through their behaviors before they can express their feelings verbally. In this webinar, explore how infants, toddlers, and preschoolers use behavior to communicate their needs, intentions, and emotions, and how adults can effectively respond. Learn about strategies and resources that home visitors can use to support parents as they understand their children's behavior while supporting their learning in the home. [Register here](#).

### **Registration Open – DEC Early Intervention Community of Practice (CoP) Webinar on Primary Service Provider:**

"Implementation of a Primary Service Provider Approach to Teaming: Lessons Learned - Boots on the Ground" is scheduled for Thursday, April 16, 2020 from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. CT. This thought-provoking panel discussion facilitated by M'Lisa Shelden and Dathan Rush will focus on how to implement a primary service provider approach to teaming from both state and local perspectives. The one-hour conversation with the panelists will be followed by a 30-minute question and answer period among webinar participants and panelists.

The panelists will include:

Katherine Brown, Birth to 5 Coordinator, Allegany Public Schools, Cumberland, MD

Christy Chronheim, Policy and Program Manager/Part C Coordinator, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Boise, ID

Anne Grui, Special Education Supervisor, Robbinsdale Area Schools, New Hope, MN

Follow this [link](#) to register (**open to DEC members and non-members**). If you are unable to attend the live discussion, a recording will be available following the webinar on the [DEC EI CoP website](#).

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

For more information about Early ACCESS, visit: [www.iafamilysupportnetwork.org](http://www.iafamilysupportnetwork.org) or contact:

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