



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](#).

You can't just sit there and wait for people to give you that golden dream. You've got to get out there and make it happen for yourself. – [Diana Ross](#)

Wondering about FGRBI?

New Modules to Learn about Family Guided Routines Based Intervention:

Early ACCESS providers who are participating in this year's professional development cycle are the first users of the new [FGRBI](#) modules. Updates include: more interactive activities, updated video clips, and stream-lined content. The modules will open to a broader audience in October and at that time, instructions to access the modules will be sent out widely.

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

Shout-Out to Child Health Specialty Clinics Service Coordinator – Anne Akers:

Anne truly provides family-centered service coordination. Her resourcefulness and communication skills enhance her ability to support families as they care for children with special health care needs. One example of this is when Anne researched durable medical equipment providers for a child that needed a special formula for a tube feeding. WIC and the company providing the formula were not able to cover the cost of the full amount of specialized formula. Anne connected the family with another company that was able to provide the additional formula, so the family was not burdened with the cost beyond what WIC provided. Timely and clear communication are another strength of Anne's. She regularly provides Early ACCESS service providers with medical information.

This practice allows the Early ACCESS team to work together with the family and respond to special health care needs.



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

Early ACCESS Vision: Every infant and toddler with or likely to have a developmental delay and their families will be supported and included in their communities so they will be healthy and successful.

In case you were wondering....

Video – The Gifts Children Bring:

Make time to watch and share this [video](#) that uses the words and feelings of children to express the importance of incorporating the “gift” of their home language(s) and culture(s) in learning.

How To Help Children Develop Empathy:

A terrific feature of this [ZERO TO THREE article](#) is the section on milestones in empathy, which highlights what it might be reasonable to expect from infants, young toddlers, and older toddlers. In addition, there are suggestions for nurturing empathy and examples of stories that can promote concepts related to empathy and feelings.

Something wonderful is happening....

Free Webinar – Perspective-Taking and Empathy as Bridges to Equity in ECE Settings:

To achieve an equitable world tomorrow, young children must grow in empathetic and equitable classrooms today. Empathy requires the ability to take other people’s perspectives. Because children under five are developmentally geared to understand the world from an egocentric perspective, early childhood educators must intentionally help children see other perspectives.

[This webinar](#) will take place on October 22 from 1-2:30PM CT and is presented by early childhood empathy and equity experts [Jacky Howell](#), [Sabina Zeffler](#), and [Makai Kellogg](#). They will provide insights about their experiences working directly with children (virtually and in person) to build these critical skills. Register [here](#).

Opportunity for Families – Read to Lead:

The [Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children](#) and [Save the Children Action Network](#) are sponsoring an 8 week “Read to Lead” series for families with young children. For eight Tuesdays beginning on September 8 at 7:30PM, families can join Zoom to hear a bedtime story. Families can receive the Zoom information by emailing ReadandLead20@gmail.com.

FREE Webinar Series on AEPS Virtual Use:

Tune in on Thursdays from Sept. 3 through Oct. 1 at 1pm CT to hear from Drs. Jennifer Grisham and JoAnn Johnson on how the AEPS system can strengthen your program’s services in these challenging times. For more information and registration, click [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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