



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](#).

What you're thinking is what you're becoming. – [Muhammad Ali](#)

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

Shout-Out to Heartland AEA Service Coordinator – Lisa Graalfs:

Lisa is one of the best service coordinators I have worked with in the 14 years I have been here! Lisa is always very encouraging to families and to us as teammates. She always has a kind word and smile. She has jumped right in to assist with problem solving the many behaviors that are related to feeding issues and has never tried to tell me that feeding isn't her role. We sure do work with one of the best!

Lisa is an amazing human being. Her kindness and compassion make her the best service coordinator that I have worked with at Heartland. She is able to help families navigate the Early ACCESS process with ease and is able to meet families where they are and to provide positive support along the journey. She is able to manage a large hectic caseload while meeting deadlines.



I would love to give a "shout out" to Lisa Graalfs as an awesome service coordinator. I feel very lucky to have Lisa as a co-worker and a friend. I love having Lisa as a teammate. She pays great attention to detail and is my "go to" person if I ever have a question about paperwork or how to interpret guidelines. She has a very nice style with families that makes them feel comfortable around her. She works hard to connect families with whatever resources they need. Lisa is very flexible and will do whatever is needed to assist the families she works with.

Lisa is absolutely phenomenal at her job! She is kind, genuine and patient with every interaction she has with colleagues and families and places building relationships with others as her top priority.

Lisa Graalfs is one of the most selfless people I know. She goes above and beyond with each family in helping to connect them with the resources that they need. When a mother was looking to go to college, Lisa joined her on a campus visit to help the non-native English speaker feel more comfortable. She listens intently to parents and responds in a way that honors them and demonstrates respect. Lisa is a huge asset to our team and agency and I am grateful to work alongside her.

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....

Great, Concise Content for Families and Professionals:

Visit [this site](#) to access 15 handouts with evidence-based information in English and Spanish on key topics ranging from stress and play to self-regulation and verbal development.

The Importance of Early Interactions:

This 20-minute [online module](#) from the [Institute for Learning & Brain Sciences \(I-LABS\)](#) shares the importance of social interactions in a young child's life. Each module delivers content through narrated PowerPoint slides with embedded videos. A discussion guide and handout are also available for this module.

Babies Learn Sounds and Words from You:

Here's a [short video](#) that shows the magical power of parentese.

Something wonderful is happening....

Autism Basics Webinar Series:

Join facilitator Kelly Pelzel, PhD with the Iowa Regional Autism Assistance Program for a four week webinar series aimed at parents/caregivers of children with a new autism diagnosis. The series will be held from noon-1pm CT on Tuesdays from October 20 through November 10, 2020. Anyone is welcome to attend. Foster parents earn one hour of group credit for each webinar. Sessions will be recorded. Register [here](#).

Webinar Series to Support Father Engagement:

Join Brazelton Touchpoints Center for a free webinar series that will explore how early childhood programs, home visitors, health and mental health providers, and community agencies can support father engagement and co-parenting. They will share strategies, tools, and outcomes from the [Supporting Father Involvement \(SFI\) Program](#), an evidence-based research and intervention program that has increased father involvement in families that are culturally and economically diverse. The first webinar was on September 29 and the following two are on October 20 and November 17 and 1pm CT. Available in English and Spanish. Learn more and 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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