



Building Families Early Childhood Area 2012-2013 Executive Summary **Hamilton, Humboldt, and Wright Counties**

Michelle Walters, LMSW – Director

120 1st Ave NW, Suite 14

Clarion, IA 50525

515.602.6371

mwalters@co.wright.ia.us

www.buildingfamilies.net | Facebook @BuildingFamilies

Vision: Every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful.

Mission: All children, youth, and families will live in safe and nurturing environments that promote health, independence and success. Building Families will create a continuum of supports and services that embraces children and their families.

Did you know? There are approximately 2000 days between birth and the first day of kindergarten. The first 2000 days of a child's life can have a profound and lifelong impact on physical and emotional wellbeing, readiness to learn and succeed, and the ability to become a productive citizen.

Building Families is committed to programs that utilize researched based, evidenced based or promising practices strategies:

- ✓ One HOPES program Nationally Accredited
- ✓ One HOPES program Parent Support State Credentialed
- ✓ One Parent program Parent Support State Credentialed
- ✓ One HOPES program working towards Parent Support State Credentialing
- ✓ Seven programs implement evidence based and researched based/promising practices programs
- ✓ One staff credentialed in Playground Safety
- ✓ Utilize researched based Parent Development Curricula



During this past year, Building Families was able to collaborate with Child Care Resource and Referral to provide the financial support needed for preschools to enhance their early learning environments. Twenty-one 3 and 4 year old preschool environments were enhanced.

COMMUNITY PLAN PRIORITIES:

1. Enhance the health, growth, and development of children and adults in the family unit.
2. Improve the availability and quality of preschool programming based on a per child basis.
3. Develop childcare and preschool providers who enhance children's health, safety, developmental skills, and abilities.
4. Improve the public perception of our programs.

- *We help educate and support families with young children*
 - 42 parent education groups
 - 20 Parent Fun Nights at Preschools
 - 196 Parents participated in the Parent Fun Nights
 - 95% of participating families reported that they improved or maintained healthy family functioning, problem solving, and communication.
- *We encourage quality parent/child interactions and monitor the health and growth of young children.*
 - 249 children 0-5 served
 - 165 families served
 - 1,998 home visits completed
 - 84 sessions of group parent education offered
 - 74% of participating families improved nurturing and attachment between parents and children
- *We support programs that implement quality programming.*
 - 1 Healthy Families America Accredited Program
 - 2 Programs are Family Support State Credentialed
 - 1 Program in processes of State Credentialing
- *We assist children to be ready to begin school by age five.*
 - 86 children received preschool scholarships
 - 30 students were provided transportation to attend Early Head Start
- *We help to enhance the social emotional development of children.*
 - 37 Early Learning Service Providers participated in professional development
 - 406 Visits were made by the Early Childhood Educational Advisor to early learning environments
 - 80% of Early Learning programs improved or maintained their highest level in a quality rating

Building Families Programs 2012-13

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ HOPES in Hamilton, Humboldt, and Wright Counties ❖ Parent Connection short term in-home and group parent education. ❖ Early Childhood Educational Advisor | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Professional Development ❖ Preschool Scholarships ❖ Playground Safety ❖ Early Head Start Transportation |
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Community Partners 2012-13

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Chambers of Commerce ❖ Child Care Centers ❖ Child Care Resource and Referral ❖ Children and Families of Iowa ❖ Community and Family Resources ❖ County Boards of Supervisors ❖ Crossroads Youth and Family Center ❖ Department of Human Services ❖ Domestic/Sexual Assault Outreach Center ❖ Enhance Hamilton County Foundation ❖ Faith Communities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Family Resource Center ❖ Hamilton, Humboldt, and Wright Decategorization Board ❖ Hamilton, Humboldt, and Wright Public Health ❖ ISU Extension ❖ KQWC Radio ❖ Preschools ❖ Power Up YOUTH Coalition ❖ School Districts ❖ Upper Des Moines Opportunities ❖ Wright County Foundation |
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What you can do to help!

- Contact your legislator and advocate about investing in children's education and care
- Inform and educate your friends, neighbors, and business partners about the importance of investing in children 0-5
- Take time to read to children of all ages, beginning at birth