

# Community Resources and Referrals

If you are an early childhood professional or parent with developmental concerns about a child, there are several steps that you should follow:

1. Parent and child care provider/early childhood professional should sit down at a convenient time to discuss child and family strengths and needs. Clear goals should be established along with a plan of action to address any identified concerns.
2. Parents should feel comfortable calling their pediatrician for additional information, support, and community referrals.
3. Parents (and early childhood professionals with parent permission) should also feel comfortable setting up additional observations and assessments from area early childhood specialists:

- **Child Guidance Center** (for any child in Polk County)  
Child Guidance Center, a division of Orchard Place, is an outpatient mental health center with a team of early childhood mental health professionals who are available for consultation, education, assessment and treatment. Observations are available by request to Polk County early childhood programs with the purpose of providing recommendations to support the classroom and individual children in areas of environment, curriculum, development and behavior.

Please call and ask to speak with one of the early childhood specialists at Child Guidance Center, 808 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50309 (515) 244-2267.  
[www.orchardplace.org](http://www.orchardplace.org)

- **Des Moines Public Schools Early Childhood Special Education Services (ECSE)** (for any child living in the Des Moines public school district)  
Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) services are available for eligible children 3 to 6 years of age at no cost to families. ECSE staff assist in the identification, assessment and development of an individualized educational plan for eligible children. A variety of service options are available and are tailored to meet the individual needs of each student. Options include ECSE visiting teacher model, integrated classroom settings with Head Start and Des Moines Public School fee-based, and self contained. ECSE classrooms are located throughout Des Moines in comprehensive schools and off site locations.

Please call and ask to speak with Ellen Welsch, Transition Facilitator with Early Childhood Special Education/Early Access at 1801 16th Street • Des Moines, Iowa 50314 (515)242-8213 <http://www.dmps.k12.ia.us/programs/4ecse.htm>

- **Heartland Area Education Association (AEA)**

(for children living in surrounding school districts)

**0-3 Early ACCESS:** Early ACCESS is a partnership between families with young children, birth to age three, and providers from the Departments of Public Health, Human Services, the Child Health Specialty Clinics and Iowa's Area Education Agencies. The purpose of this program is for families and staff to work together in identifying, coordinating and providing needed services and resources that will help the family assist their infant or toddler to grow and develop. There is no cost for most of these services.

For families who live in Audubon, Boone, Carroll, Dallas, Guthrie, Jasper, Madison, Marion, Polk, Story, or Warren counties, please call 1-800-362-2720, and ask for extension 4353 (Early ACCESS Regional Coordinator). Families living in other counties may call Iowa Compass 1-800-779-2001 to request their regional contact number.

<http://www.aea11.k12.ia.us/>

**3-5 Kindergarten Inclusion:** The goal of kindergarten inclusion is to develop a three year plan for inclusion of all identified special education children into kindergarten.

Contact: 6500 Corporate Drive, Johnston, IA 50131-1603 (515)270-9030

<http://www.aea11.k12.ia.us/>

- **Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT)**

EPSDT is a federally funded program for kids eligible for Medicaid. EPSDT screenings are held by the public health community-based agency serving your community. In Polk County, contact Visiting Nurse Services, 1111 9<sup>th</sup> Street, #32, Des Moines, Iowa 50314 (515)558-9970. Outside Polk County, please see the following website for specific contact information.

[http://www.idph.state.ia.us/hpcdp/epsdt\\_care\\_for\\_kids.asp](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/hpcdp/epsdt_care_for_kids.asp)

4. Parents and early childhood professionals should work together to obtain and share useful information to assist the child in all settings. There are many websites to help you in your search for information.

**Early Childhood, Intervention Related Sites:**

National Association for the Education of Young Children: <http://www.naeyc.org/default.htm>

National Center for Infants, Toddlers, & Families: <http://www.zerotothree.org/>

National Early Childhood Technical Assistance System (NEC\*TAS): <http://www.nectas.unc.edu>

Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC): [http://www.ed.gov/prog\\_info/ERIC/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/prog_info/ERIC/index.html)

Internet Resources for Special Children (IRSC): <http://www.irsc.org>

**U.S. Department of Education Sites:**

IDEA, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSERS/IDEA/>

National Institute on Disability & Rehabilitation Research: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSERS/NIDRR/>

Office of Special Education Programs: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSERS/OSEP/index.html>

Rehabilitation Services Administration: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSERS/RSA/rsa.html>

**Family Issues and Parent Support Sites:**

National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities (NICHCY): <http://www.nichcy.org/>

National Parent to Parent Support and Information System (NPPSIS): <http://www.nppsis.org/>

Our Kids: <http://rdz.stjohns.edu/library/support/our-kids>

PACER Center (Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights):<http://www.pacer.org/>  
Self-Help Source Book:<http://www.cmhc.com/selfhelp>

### **Helpful Information for Picture Schedules, Routines, and Rules:**

<http://www.dotolearn.com>  
<http://trainland.tripod.com/pecs.htm>  
<http://members.cox.net/tinsnips/Pages/ideas.html>  
<http://www.preschoolprintables.com>  
<http://www.abcteach.com>  
<http://www.pdictionary.com>  
<http://www.enchantedlearning.com>

### **Medical & Mental Health Information Sites:**

The Alliance of Genetic Support Groups:<http://medhelp.org/www/agsg.htm>  
Association for Birth Defect Children (ABDC):<http://www.birthdefects.org/>  
Community Science Medline Access:<http://muscat.gdb.org/repos/medi/>  
Health World Medline Access:<http://www.healthy.net/library/search/medline.htm>  
Mental Health Net: A comprehensive guide featuring over 4,000 resources:<http://www.cmhc.com/>  
Missouri Institute of Mental Health & The Policy Information Exchange:<http://www.pie.org/>  
National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD):<http://www.penet.com/~orphan/>  
Neuroscience Web Search:<http://www.acsiom.org/nsr/neuro.html>  
Rare Genetic Diseases in Children:<http://mcr2.med.nyu.edu/murphp01/homenew.htm>  
Research and Training Center on Family Support & Children's Mental Health (Portland State University):  
<http://www.rtc.pdx.edu/>

### **Training for Parents & Family Caregivers:**

Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Iowa: (800) 417-0417 or [amiiowa@aol.com](mailto:amiiowa@aol.com)  
Program for Infant & Toddler Caregivers:[http://www.iaeceprofdev.org/training\\_resources?PITC.html](http://www.iaeceprofdev.org/training_resources?PITC.html)  
**Parenting Monthly list of available LOCAL support groups and classes:** <http://parentingmonthly.org>  
Better Kid Care: <http://betterkidcare.psu.edu/page01.html>  
Foster Parent Training: <http://www.ifapa.org/training.html>  
Parents as Teachers: <http://www.parnc.org/prgsites.asp>  
Prevent Child Abuse Parent Education: [http://www.pcaiowa.org/program\\_services](http://www.pcaiowa.org/program_services)  
Strengthening Families: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/sfp/sfpcont.html>

### **Training & Information for Caregivers & Early Childhood Professionals:**

Child Net/ Child Care Resource & Referral of Central Iowa: <http://www.childnetiowa.org/>  
Child Development Institute: <http://www.cdipage.com>  
Creative Curriculum: <http://teachingstrategies.com>  
Early Childhood Resource Library: <http://www.uihealthcare.com/cdd>  
National Association for Child Development: <http://www.nacd.org>  
National Association for the Education of Young Children: <http://www.naeyc.org>  
Pediatric About Pages: <http://pediatrics.about.com/od/growth&development>

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