

Results & Strategies

Vision: Every child will be healthy and successful.

Mission: The Polk County Early Childhood Iowa Board's mission is to work with community partners to make investments in programming to achieve long-term positive results for children.



Early learning environment supported by Polk County Early Childhood Iowa 2014.

Result Area: **Healthy Children**
System Framework: **Health, Mental Health & Nutrition; Special Needs/Early Intervention**

Strategic Programs & Partners: **1st Five – Visiting Nurse Services**
Lead Poisoning Prevention Program – Polk County Public Health
Smile Squad – Des Moines Health Center
La Clínica de la Esperanza – UnityPoint Health
Blank Children's Free Clinics – Blank Children's Hospital

Outcomes

- 1,689 children were screened for health and developmental concerns
- 829 children with developmental concerns identified during pediatric office well-child visits were linked with follow-up programs, services and resources
- 739 children ages 1–5 received dental screening and oral health education
- 422 children received dual-language primary and preventative health care
- 318 children were screened for elevated blood lead levels, and 20 children with elevated lead levels received follow-up treatment including healthy home evaluations

Result Area: **Children Ready to Succeed in School**
System Framework: **Early Learning**

Strategic Programs & Partners: **Public School Districts: Ankeny, Bondurant-Farrar, Dallas Center Grimes, Des Moines Public Schools, North Polk, Saydel, Southeast Polk, Urbandale, West Des Moines**

Outcomes

- 273 low-income children ages 3–4 attended preschool
- 273 preschool children received health and developmental screenings
- 218 preschool children demonstrated age appropriate skills
- 54 preschool children not demonstrating age appropriate skills demonstrated growth toward these skills

It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.

– Frederick Douglass, 1855

Result Area: Safe & Supportive Communities
System Framework: Health, Mental Health & Nutrition; Family Support; Early Learning

Strategic Programs & Partners: Blumenthal Crisis Nursery – Youth Emergency Shelter & Services
Respite Options – Lutheran Services in Iowa

Outcomes

- 109 children in 75 families experiencing crisis and at-risk of neglect or abuse received temporary respite
- 61 families were linked to additional concrete supports and services

Result Area: Secure & Nurturing Families
System Framework: Family Support

Strategic Programs & Partners: Healthy Start & Empowerment – Visiting Nurse Services
Early Childhood SUCCESS – Des Moines Public Schools

Outcomes

- 7,846 home visits by family support workers were provided to families in their homes
- 766 children received home visits and in-home family support
- 653 families participated in parent education programs and in-home family support
- 440 of families were connected to additional concrete supports
- 433 of families improved or maintained healthy family functioning, problem solving and communication
- 381 of families improved nurturing and attachment between parent(s) and child(ren)
- 170 parent education group meetings were provided to families
- 37 different languages and dialects were spoken by families served

Result Area: Secure & Nurturing Early Learning Environments
System Framework: Early Learning

Strategic Programs & Partners: Comprehensive Training Plan – Child Care Resource & Referral
Reach For the Stars – Child Care Resource & Referral
Child Care Consultants/Latino Outreach – Child Care Resource & Referral
Child Care Quality Coordinator – Capitol Park Early Learning Center
Child Care Consultant – Capitol Park Early Learning Center
Child Care Nurse Consultants – Visiting Nurse Services
Des Moines Area Growth Fund – First Children’s Finance
T.E.A.C.H. – Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children

Outcomes

- Des Moines Area Child Care Coalition: 18 licensed and registered child care centers participated in quality improvement activities and received consultation year round to improve quality
 - 819 site visits and 1,025 technical assistance contacts made with providers at these 18 centers
 - 1,407 low-income children attended these 18 centers
 - 11 of 18 coalition centers participate in a quality initiative: 2 centers meet or exceed the National Association for the Education of Young Children’s (NAEYC) standards. 9 centers participate in the state’s QRS and of these 8 have a 3 or higher (3 QRS-5, 4 QRS-4, 1 QRS-3 and 1 QRS-2)
- 3,083 visits to early learning programs were made by child care nurse consultants
- 1,914 visits to early learning programs in centers and homes conducted by early childhood consultants
- 1,322 child care providers participated in professional development and training
- 380 more child care slots than previous year were serviced by consultants
- 314 programs participated in child care nurse consultant activities to improve health and safety
- 30 child care providers attended college part-time to earn early childhood credits toward a credential or degree while continuing to work full-time with young children in child care settings