

Iowa State Action Plan

Date: October 22, 2002

Team Members: Evelyn Anderson, Jody Caswell, Nancy Dunn, Gina Greene, Barb Gregersen, Kerry Moore Kroneman, Melanie Nollsch, Leslee Sandberg, Mary Schertz, Lisa Sharp, Susan Simon, Jamie Simpson, Jan Stauss, Charletta Sudduth, Marsha Swanson

Ultimate Goal: All children have quality, inclusive early care and education.

Primary Outcome: The early childhood workforce is prepared and competent.

Priority #1: **Infuse exceptionality and inclusion into early childhood personnel preparation and professional development**

Action Steps:

- 1) Create strategies to teach knowledge, skills and dispositions about exceptionality and inclusion to stakeholders and the early childhood workforce.
- 2) Create feedback and follow-up opportunities. Develop a common vocabulary that defines terms that include, but are not limited to, exceptionality, inclusion, personnel preparation and professional development.
- 3) Identify methods and materials for promoting, supporting and teaching about exceptionality and inclusive practices.

Persons Responsible:

Melanie Nollsch, Leslee Sandberg, Mary Schertz and Susan Simon

Time Line:

By June 30, 2003 (action Step 1)

Resources Needed/Available

- 1) Early Childhood Resource Guide
- 2) "Three, Four, Five Thrive"
- 3) Inclusive model classrooms such as Project Child Care
- 4) Iowa SCRIPT Invitational Symposium

Evaluation Criteria

- 1) # of infants and toddlers on IFSPs being served in Natural Allies will increase
- 2) # of preschoolers on IEPs served in the least restrictive environment will increase

Priority #2: Infuse family-centered principles into early childhood personnel preparation and professional development

Action Steps:

Create strategies to teach knowledge, skills and dispositions about family centered practices to stakeholders and the EC workforce.

- Regular opportunities for community college faculty to meet
- Partner with existing conferences and training

Persons Responsible:

Evelyn Anderson, Mary Schertz, Lisa Sharp and Jamie Simpson

Time Line:

By June 30, 2004

Resources Needed/Available

\$ for printing of "Family Centered Brochure"

\$ for expenses for community college faculty "meeting"

\$ for attendance at various statewide conferences, such as IA AEYC, Early Care & Education Congress

Support of Iowa SCRIPT Symposium

Evaluation Criteria

The number of Early Care and Education personnel in Iowa using Family Centered principles will increase.

Priority #3: Support linkages between early childhood professional development initiatives and resources

Action Steps:

- 1) Review community college early childhood programs and courses to support articulation
- 2) Develop and maintain a list of existing early childhood initiatives and resources
- 3) Develop a repository of resources that support the infusion of exceptionality, inclusion and family centered practices in early childhood care and education
- 4) Identify strategies to disseminate resource information to trainers and service providers
 - present at conferences
 - have available at conferences various materials for participants to review
- 5) Identify strategies that will support paraeducator licensure and ensure exceptionality, inclusion and family centered principles

Persons Responsible:

Evelyn Anderson, Jody Caswell, Kerry Moore Kroneman, Susan Simon and Marsha Swanson

Time Line:

By June 30, 2003 (Action Step 1)

Other Needed Resources

\$ for purchase and/or printing and distribution of the Early Childhood Resource Guide
\$ for purchase of selected materials from the EC Resource Guide
\$ for registration fees for conferences such as IAAYC, Early Care & Education Congress
\$ for printing and distribution of the "Professional Development Guide"
Karen Martens and Deb Samson – DE Consultants in charge of the paraeducator licensure

Evaluation Criteria

- 1) There is an articulation agreement among the 15 community colleges and the 3 state universities.
- 2) A database has been established listing all of early childhood initiatives and resources in Iowa
- 3) A strategy addressing the dissemination of resource information to trainers and service providers has been established
- 4) Exceptionality, inclusion and family centered principles have been infused into the paraeducator licensure

Priority #4: Support the development of the relationships essential for all children to have inclusive early care and education

Action Steps:

- 1) Identify skills needed in order to develop positive relationships.
- 1) Develop best practices paper.
- 3) Disseminate to Early Childhood stakeholders.

Persons Responsible:

Nancy Dunn, Gina Greene, Barb Gregersen, Jan Stauss and Charletta Sudduth

Time Line:

June 30, 2003 (Action step 1)

Other Needed Resources

\$ for possible purchase of resources
\$ for printing & dissemination of best practices paper

Evaluation Criteria

Best practices paper has been developed and disseminated