



*A Project of Iowa Association for
the Education of Young Children*

Annual Report FY23

The Early Childhood Quality Improvement Project (ECQuIP) is a project of the Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children. Iowa AEYC supports early childhood professionals as they explore personal professional development opportunities to ensure Iowa's young children receive quality early childhood experiences. As early childhood professionals, we must continually learn and change. Regardless of our role in early childhood, professional development provides us with important education and training to develop the skills and competencies that improve delivery of services.

The ECQuIP team supports early childhood programs serving at least 30% children from low-income families in Polk and Dallas counties. The goal of the project is to help programs achieve a level of quality that supports the development of all children and puts them on track with their peers when entering kindergarten.

Project Services:

- Professional Development
- Screenings & Referrals
 - Developmental*
 - Math*
 - Literacy*
 - Social Emotional*
 - Health (with EveryStep)*
 - Dental (with Dental Connections)*
- Classroom Support

Onsite Consultation:

- Business Practices
- Policy Writing & Review
- Program Licensing
- Support for Iowa's QRIS
- Classroom Management
- Classroom Curriculum & Assessment
- Social Emotional Classroom Supports

Demographics Served

1,881
children

birth to age five
in 15 programs.

1,191
developmental
screenings
performed
using ASQ[®]-3.

65%
children
receive state
Child Care
Assistance.

Screening Results

Between October 2022 and May 2023:

99%

of the 190 4-year-old
children screened
with the myIGDIs tool
showed improvement
in math skills.

1 2 3
4 5
6 7 8



90%

of the 175 4-year-old
children screened
with the Get Ready to
Read![™] tool showed
improvement in
reading skills.

Who We Serve

The ECQuIP team currently works with 15 child care programs serving children birth through age 5 in Polk and Dallas Counties. These programs were identified, in part, due to their commitment to reserve at least 30% of their slots for low-income families receiving Child Care Assistance (CCA).

Quality and Education

Directors

Total Directors:
15

HS Diploma: 3

CDA®: 1

AA: 3

BA: 7

MA: 1

State QRIS Participation

Level 4: 5

Level 5: 2

NAEYC Accredited: 3

Staff

Total Teachers:
246

HS Diploma: 173

CDA®: 28

AA in ECE: 18

BA in ECE: 16

T.E.A.C.H. Participants:
21

WAGE\$ Participants:
48

2023 Center Coalition

100 Acre Woods Child Care
Center
Amanda Grems

AIRazi Academy
Ihsan Yaseen

All Star Day Care
Karen Newcomb

Altoona 8th Street Child Care
Janet Ira

Bidwell-Riverside Child
Development Center
Kellie Johnson

Capitol Park Early Learning
Center
Whitney Fink

CFI Child Development Center
Samantha Harms-Kedley

Color My World Child Care &
Preschool
Bobbie Gregory

Connigo Early Education
Center
Kay Strahorn

Christ the King Day Care
Makayla Grossman

Grandview Child
Development Center
Sara Isaacson

House of Mercy
Andy Smith

Oak Academy
Bethany Davis

Perry Child Development
Center
Kim Bonjour-Eiteman

Wonder Years Academy
Laura Trainer

ECQuIP Team



Tammy Engbretson
Director of
Quality Initiatives



Laurie Parker
Consultant



Amy Curtis
Consultant



Lisa Stocksleger
Consultant



Johnna Haggerty
Consultant



Jennifer Stritz
Consultant

Funder Acknowledgement

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*United Way of Central Iowa
through Women United*

Polk County Early Childhood Iowa



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