

# FIRST 2,000 DAYS: RAISING IOWA'S FUTURE

The first 2,000 days of life are crucial to a child's future. Decades of brain research show that our earliest experiences in life build our brains, affecting our ability to develop:



COGNITIVELY



→ SOCIALLY



→ EMOTIONALLY

## WHY THE FIRST 2,000 DAYS?

These first five years will impact a child's chances for success for the rest of their lives. Investments in early childhood are not only valuable to the individual child, but to the entire community. With support of early childhood programs, more parents are able to enter and stay in the workforce, and a stronger workforce is built for the future.

In Iowa, we can do more to set children up for success in their first 2,000 days of life:



77%

of children under age 6 had all available parents in the workforce in 2018.



17,916

parents quit a job, did not take a job, or greatly changed their job because of child care issues.



\$4.4B

Businesses in the United States lose \$4.4 billion annually due to employee absenteeism as a result of child care breakdowns.

## WHAT DOES ECI DO?

With a local board to serve every county in Iowa, ECI informs communities and families about the services available to their children to ensure their complete development. We connect families to supports such as child care, Head Start, home visiting, the 1st Five health program, Early ACCESS for children with disabilities, and so much more.

## WHAT CAN BUSINESSES DO TO HELP?

Building knowledge around who we are and what services we offer is the best way to grow our impact in Iowa and make sure that all children can thrive in the first 2,000 days of life and beyond. Consider participating in the following:



Join an ECI area board



Include parents and children in the decision making process



Volunteer with local ECI programs



Invest in local ECI efforts



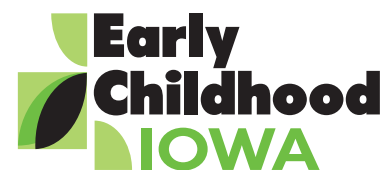
Write or sign an Op-Ed or Letter to the Editor about your support of ECI



Talk with other business community members

Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) is a statewide initiative, housed within the Iowa Department of Management, that unites public and private agencies/organizations under one common goal: providing a network to families that ensures the best possible early childhood development for Iowa's children.

Our dedication to Iowa's children is perfectly captured in our vision statement: "Every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful."



Iowa Department of Management  
Office of Early Childhood Iowa  
State Capitol, Room 13  
Des Moines, IA 50319  
earlychildhood.iowa.gov