

**EC QuIP**  
**IOWA**

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

**ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2019**





## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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% low-income children in Polk, Warren, and Dallas counties. Our goal 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.

**Over the year, ECQuIP team members made more than 2,000 visits to early childhood annually. These classrooms serve more than 1,500 children birth to five years of age annually.**



Play is the highest form of research.

- Albert Einstein





## PROJECT SERVICES

Professional Development

Developmental Screenings

Health Screenings/Referrals

Mental Health Screenings/Referrals

Classroom Materials

Facility Improvements

Participation in State and Community Early Childhood Education Committees

Support for Iowa's Quality Rating System participation

On-site Consultation and Coaching in the areas of:

- Business Practices
- Classroom Curriculum and Assessment
  - Literacy Screening (Get Ready to Read)
  - Math Screening (IGDI'S)
- Classroom Management
- Parent and Staff Relations
- Program Licensing
- Policy Creation
- Scaffolding Teacher Instruction Based on Data



**Get Ready to READ!**



# Early Childhood QUALITY IMPROVEMENT Project

## WHO IS SERVED

The ECQuIP team currently works with 17 child care programs serving children birth through age 5 in Polk and Dallas county. These programs were identified for the project because they have made a commitment to reserve at least 30% of their slots for low-income families receiving child care assistance.

According to American Academy of Pediatrics, "Children growing up in household poverty often have a home environment that is less supportive of school readiness. We know that access to high-quality early childhood education is proven to help mitigate its long-term effects on children's development."



**1,541**  
Number of  
Children  
Served  
FY19



**60%**  
% of  
Children  
Receiving  
Child Care  
Assistance



**44%**  
% of  
Children  
of Color



**224**  
**Teachers**

High School: 121  
CDA: 39  
AA: 27  
BA: 37



**17**  
**Directors**

High School: 3  
CDA: 3  
AA: 4  
BA: 5  
MA: 2



Participation in  
**T.E.A.C.H.: 38**  
**WAGES: 48**



**State QRS**  
**Participation**

Level 4 = 7  
Level 5 = 4  
NAEYC  
Accredited = 3



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

One of the services provided by the ECQuIP team is professional development for directors and teachers. Using a train-coach-train model, professional development plays a key role in our work.

**Directors received 6 hours of professional development** from First Children's Finance to support their writing or updating of their business plans.

**Directors received 42 hours of PD** on program management and leadership through the Toolbox Series.

**38 staff received 16 hours of literacy training** in the following areas: Best Practices, Phonological Awareness, Written Expression, Language Development, Book Reading, and Letter Knowledge.

**45 Infant, Toddler, and Two year old staff received 24 hours of PD** in the areas of observation, assessment, and planning.

With support from United Way of Central Iowa, Polk County Early Childhood Iowa, and Drake Early Head Start, **120 teachers were able to attend the IAAEYC Fall Institute.**



“

Toolbox training was a great series that taught me a lot about the business side of child care. This is a tough business that is unlike other businesses, and we have a unique way of operating because we can have so many unknown variables month to month. This series recognized that fact, and gave us ways to effectively make changes within our programs that actually work and that are sustainable.

~ Whitney Taylor  
Director, Capitol Park Early Learning Center

”

“

I enjoyed attending the Tool box training sessions. To me it was very helpful to learn from you these great tools to help build confidence as a director, sharpen leadership skills, strengthen staff commitment, and expand opportunities for collaborations to make the school/center vision come alive, while building a vibrant and engaging learning environment for the children and the community. I believe that the Leadership skills taught by these sessions made me learn how to accomplish more work in less time and enjoy the important role I play in the educational field, especially with shaping the kids' future in the early childhood program. I have to mention that Stacey Walter, the presenter, had a strong understanding of the material along with experience to share, which made it much easier to understand and enjoy.

~ Ihsan Yaseen  
Director/Principal  
AlRazi Academy

”



## MATH AND LITERACY

### LITERACY

#### The Get Ready to Read! - Revised Screening tool:

The Get Ready to Read! Screening tool is a reliable, research-based series of questions for children in the year before they enter kindergarten, to determine whether they have the early literacy skills they need to become readers. The screening tool is part of a flexible program, not a curriculum, which complements most early literacy and early reading programs.

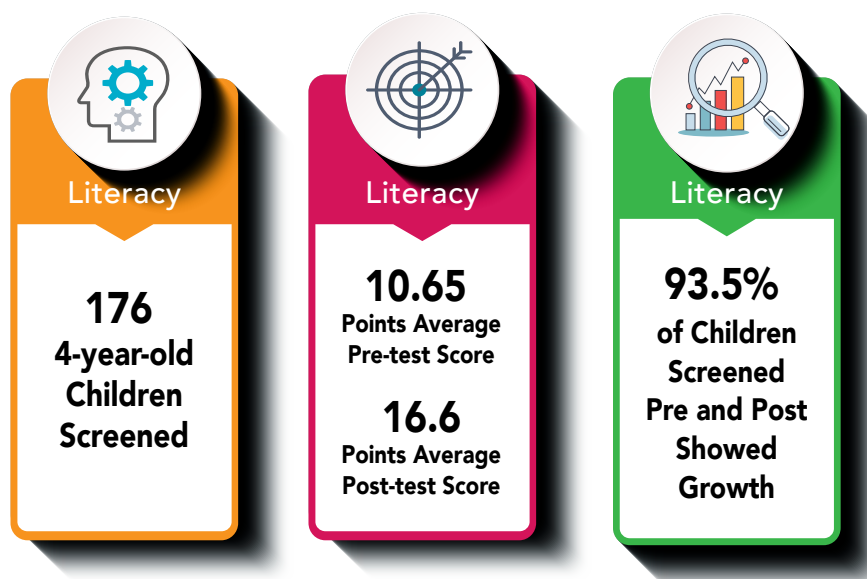
#### 3 Areas of screening

Print Knowledge – refers to a child’s understanding of books, printed letters, and words.

Linguistic awareness – refers to a child’s understanding of how words and language works.

Emergent Writing – refers to a child’s first efforts to create and use print in a meaningful way.

- can be administered to children in the pre-kindergarten year by professionals and non-professionals.
- produces a score for individual children that can be linked empirically to the potential for reading success.
- tells where a child is on the path toward reading; experiences and activities done with a child can be adapted to his or her level of development
- is made up of 25 items measuring print knowledge, emergent writing, and linguistic awareness skills of 4-year-olds.



#### Interventions:

Participating classrooms received child support in the form of small group work and one-on-one reading buddies through United Way’s Book Buddy program. Literacy training was provided to teaching staff to increase their understanding and awareness of literacy best practices.



## MATH

### National Council of Teachers Mathematics Position:

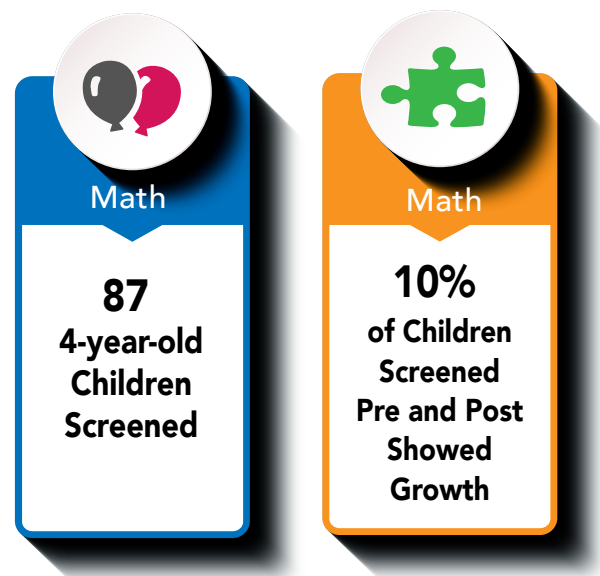
Young learner's future understanding of mathematics requires an early foundation based on a high-quality, challenging, and accessible mathematics education. Young children in every setting should experience mathematics through effective research-based curricula and teaching practices. Such practices in turn require that teachers have the support of policies, organizational structures, and resources that enable them to succeed in this challenging and important work.

According to the developers of the Individual Growth and Development Indicators of Early Numeracy (IDGI's), evidence is building around the link between mathematical skills and later school success. Effective assessment practices play a critical role in promoting early identification and intervention in the development of mathematical competency.

The ECQuIP team did a pilot using the IGDI's tool during the 2018-2019 school year. Given the data that was collected it was decided that this screening tool will be used with all children the year before they enter kindergarten and additional teacher training in math would be provided.

#### 4 Areas of Screening

Oral Counting  
Number Naming  
Quantity Comparison  
1-to-1 Correspondence Counting



### Interventions:

The interventions consisted of teacher coaching on the areas in the screening.



## FUNDER ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Gratitude and appreciation to our ECQuIP supporters working toward equitable access to higher education, better compensation and employment stability. We thank them for their support.

## 2019 CHILD CARE PROGRAM COALITION

All Star Day Care  
**Karen Newcomb**

Altoona 8th Street Child Care  
**Kelly Ethell**

Bidwell/Riverside CDC  
**Kay Strahorn**

Capitol Park ELC  
**Whitney Taylor**

CFI Child Development Center  
**Casey Kelley**

ChildTime  
**Lisa Beed**

Color My World  
**Janee Sharp**

Conmigo Early Education Center  
**Margarita Pizano**

Christ the King Day Care  
**Monica Roland**

Grandview II  
**Sara Isaacson**

House of Mercy  
**Andy Smith**

AlRazi  
**Ihsan Yaseen**

Oak Academy  
**Bethany Davis**

Perry Child Development Center  
**Laurie Wernli**

Teddy Bear Town  
**Samantha Harms-Kedley**

Wonder Years Academy  
**Laura Trainer**

100 Acre Woods Child Care Center  
**Michelle Crozier**

## 2019 FUNDING PARTNERS

United Way of Central Iowa Women United  
Polk County Early Childhood Iowa

## ECQuIP TEAM

Manager  
**Stacey Walter**

Child Care Center Consultant  
**Amy Curtis**

Child Care Center Consultant  
**Jennifer Stritz**

Child Care Center Consultant  
**Johnna Haggerty**

Literacy Consultant  
**Lisa Stocksleger**

Mental Health Consultant  
**Ashley Bertsch, LISW**

## COMMUNITY CENTER SUPPORT STAFF

Child Care Center Consultant  
**Mary Jo Madvig**

Child Care Nurse Consultant  
**Kristin Sjulín**

Child Care Nurse Consultant  
**Melissa Garton**

Community Literacy Consultant  
**Katie McKenzie**

Iowa AEYC  
5525 Meredith Drive, Suite F  
Des Moines, IA 50310  
[www.iowaaeyc.org](http://www.iowaaeyc.org)  
(515) 331-8000 or (800) 469-2392

Early Childhood Quality Improvement Project (ECQuIP) is a program administered by the Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children.

Funding Partners are welcome for 2019 and beyond.

**iaaeyc**



A Program of Iowa Association for the  
Education of Young Children

An Affiliate of **naeyc**