



Early Childhood Coordinating Council

Communicator

Summer 2011

We are Idahoans who want to make a difference for Idaho's Kids!

VISION:

All Idaho's children grow up healthy, safe and nurtured by their families, with quality learning opportunities, and are able to reach their fullest potential supported by inclusive community services.

MISSION:

Provide leadership and education, and coordinate resources for Idaho's young children and their families.

Join us on [Facebook](#) and follow our monthly theme!

IDEal College Savings Plan

The 529 College Savings Plan is a program that:

- Helps families save today for tomorrow's higher education
- Offers [tax advantages](#) that can help money go further
- Does not limit income or maximum age
- Grows [tax deferred](#) earnings, so money has the opportunity to work harder
- Starts with as little as \$25

For more information visit [idasaves.org](#) Call 1-866-433-2533 to speak with IDEal representatives. Call Jace Perry or Paul Stewart at (208) 332-3200

Shaken Baby Syndrome Update

There has been a 200% increase statewide in shaken baby cases in Child Welfare (both in child care settings and in home environments), demonstrating the importance of education.

During last year's Legislative session House Concurrent Resolution 5 (HCR005) was passed. HCR005, in conjunction

with April's Child Abuse Awareness Month, encourages agencies and nonprofits to emphasize Shaken Baby Syndrome as a leading cause of child abuse deaths in children less than one year of age, thereby educating Idaho citizens on this preventable tragedy.

The Early Childhood Coordinating Council developed an educational bookmark for statewide distribution to help with educating the public about Shaken Baby Syndrome. We have about 15,000 bookmarks that can be ordered by contacting Ashley Akina at akinaa@dhw.idaho.gov, to continue sharing this important message.



Research and Evaluation of IdahoSTARS

Janice Fletcher and Julie Fodor thanked the EC3 committee for their previous input on the IdahoSTARS 5-year evaluation and research plan. Four items that reflect the portions of the five year plan were presented:

1. Julie distributed results of a survey of participants in IdahoSTARS, that included child care providers, directors, and owners.
2. Janice presented an overview of two upcoming studies that will address provider and program outcomes for the quality rating improvement system, with an emphasis on historic changes in systems and outcomes of the systems. Results of these studies will be used to develop subsequent surveys.
3. An overview of a third study was also presented. This study will be carried out using a case study design. A non-profit, IdahoSTARS participating center will serve as the case site. The goal is to explore possibilities for child outcome measures.



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4. A set of frequency tables was also presented as a sample of how data are being organized for further evaluation and analysis.

HEAL Update

Healthy Eating, Active Living (HEAL) Idaho is a voluntary, statewide network that includes representatives from public health, health care professionals, hospitals, nonprofit organizations, universities, health insurers, education, and transportation focused on obesity prevention, physical activity, and nutrition to improve health and well-being.

HEAL created a statewide framework entitled the *Nutrition and Physical Activity Framework 2011-2013*. The plan lists goals and recommended actions for Idaho, addressing policy, systems and environmental change related to healthy eating and active living.

At the last EC3 meeting, Rebecca Lemmons from IDHW, demonstrated a “super brain yoga” activity that they often use at their HEAL meetings as a way to model healthy behavior.

For more information on the HEAL Framework, super brain yoga, or for instructions on how to join HEAL and the HEAL Google group, contact: **Rebecca Lemmons** lemmonsr@dhw.idaho.gov **Jaime Harding** hardingj@dhw.idaho.gov

Be sure to check your local School Districts and Head Start Program for Fall registration!

United Way-How can you help in your area?

United Way Giving Campaign is a way to support community needs. Visit the United Way website for offices in your area, and to obtain a donation form. You may designate your donation to community needs and/or the Council’s Early Childhood Care and Learning Fund. Check “Other” and designate Idaho Community Foundation-Early Care and Learning Fund for your tax-deductable donation.

Winter is coming fast look for clothing and food banks in your area to help keep Idaho kids warm

2011 Meeting Schedule

September 15 1:00- 5:00
September 16 8:00-4:00

November 3 1:00-5:00
November 4 8:00-4:00

Visit the Early Childhood Information Clearinghouse web page for location and agenda.

Watch for:

Quarterly publications of the Communicator

October 1, 2011
December 1, 2011
March 1, 2012
June 1, 2012

Policy Corner... coming soon!

Know the Signs: Autism Awareness

If a child does not:

- Respond to her name by 12 months
- Point at objects to show interest (point at an airplane flying over) by 14 months
- Play "pretend" games (pretend to "feed" a doll) by 18 months

Consider talking to your doctor

For more information about developmental milestones visit the Idaho Infant Toddler Program web page

Thank you to Ashley Akina, Vista Member for contributions.

Council Contact Information

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