



Mahaska Wapello Early Childhood Iowa

Mission Statement

The Mahaska Wapello Early Childhood Iowa Board of Directors is committed to providing resources and support to local early care, health and education providers to increase their capacity to deliver comprehensive services to children 0-5 years and their families.

Vision Statement

Every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful.

Core Values

- *Respect for all children, families, early care, health and education providers and our community at large.*
- *Advocacy for all children and families.*
- *Encouragement of high-quality services.*
- *Diversity of ideas and people.*
- *Communication and openness to help us achieve our common goals.*
- *To promote partnerships and collaboration at all levels.*
- *To be fair and reasonable in our dealings.*

Organizational Philosophy

The early years in a child's life provide the foundation for his or her unique rate of growth in emotional, social, physical, and cognitive development. Mahaska Wapello Early Childhood Iowa provides resources and support to local early care, health and education providers enabling them to use recognized best practices and evidence-based curricula and program models, resulting in quality comprehensive services for all children and their families and securing a solid foundation for school success and future as happy and productive citizens.

Marketing Campaign - "Invest in 2000 Days"

*There are approximately **2000 Days** between birth and the first day of kindergarten. The first **2000 Days** of a child's life can have a **profound** and **lifelong impact** on physical and emotional well-being, readiness to learn and succeed, and ability to become a productive citizen.*

Strategic Plan 2020 - 2024

MWECI Strategic Goals			
Children’s Mental Health & Well-Being	Competent Early Learning Workforce	Access to Quality, Affordable Preschool	Positive Parent – Child Interactions
Key Strategies			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Growing conversation among early childhood partners about the need for better mental health services is a new emphasis. ❖ Provide informational materials that are easy to read and understand. Utilize social media and technology to increase effectiveness and accessibility of marketing materials. Brochures and pamphlets need to be concise, effective, and widely distributed. ❖ Boost awareness of and support for 1st Five program efforts. ❖ Expand on the work of the Children’s Mental Health and Well Being Collaborative ❖ Support services and training for the prevention of infectious disease, prevention of child injuries, development of health emergency protocols, administration of medications, care for children with special needs, and early childhood screenings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Support services and training to improve the quality of early learning environments (childcare centers, preschools, child development homes, and FFN (friends, family & neighbors). ❖ The emphasis on child care increases awareness of the child care shortage while promoting the use of quality standards and improving educational opportunities for children 0-5 ❖ Increase parent and community knowledge of quality child care businesses and the economic impact that they have. ❖ Professional development for early childhood educators that includes nutrition, health, and prevention components. ❖ Enhance support for and use of local nutrition programs that are already in place and offered by partners like ISU Extension “Farm to Table.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Support services to help families’ access quality preschool experiences for all children 3-5 years. ❖ Increase community awareness that young children exposed to high-quality settings exhibit better language and math skills, better cognitive and social skills, and better relationships with classmates than do children in lower-quality settings. ❖ Aid programs and increase family involvement opportunities such as home visits, family nights, and conferences. ❖ Aid public school preschools to obtain QRS / QRIS ratings. ❖ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Support services to provide family support through home visitation and group parent education. ❖ Increase community awareness that Home visiting is an effective method of supporting families, particularly as part of a comprehensive and coordinated system of services. ❖ These voluntary programs tailor services to meet the needs of individual families and offer information, guidance, and support directly in the home environment. ❖ Support services and community awareness for prevention of child abuse and neglect. ❖ Be open to re-design programs to meet the needs of families – Many ECI funded programs have been operating for more than a decade. The community profile of families has changed, and programs/activities need to change and grow with them.