



**News Release**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For more information contact:

**Heidi Schminke, Co-Director, Better Tomorrows Early Childhood Iowa Area, 319/472-4543**

**Lori Johnson, Co-Director, Better Tomorrows Early Childhood Iowa Area, 641/484-4788**

**Preschool Scholarship Funding Available**

**June 21, 2012 (Benton and Tama County)** – Better Tomorrows Early Childhood Iowa is announcing that applications are available for preschool tuition assistance for children who reside in Benton and Tama County. In order to qualify for scholarships, children will need to attend a contracted licensed center or preschool facility. To be eligible families must show proof of income and be at or below 200% of poverty.

The funds are made available through the scholarship component of the Better Tomorrows Early Childhood Iowa Area. This funding is designed to assist families who may not otherwise be able to send their children to preschool.

Families who reside in Benton County should contact Heidi Schminke regarding the application process. Families residing in Tama County should contact Sharla at Mid-Iowa Community Action at 641/484-4713.

Parents may obtain the application form on the websites or by contacting the preschool your child will be attending. Once approved for assistance, payments will be made directly to the contracted preschool facility each month.

Eighty percent attendance is required each month in order to continue to receive scholarship assistance. A complete copy of the policies and procedures are included in the application packet.

***Funding will be awarded based on need and availability of funds. Priority funding may be given to children attending a 4-year-old preschool program.***

The Better Tomorrows Early Childhood Iowa Area offers services and referrals to families throughout Benton and Tama County with children ages 0-5. The focus of Early Childhood is to ensure that children enter school happy, healthy and ready to learn. For more information on the Better Tomorrows Early Childhood Iowa Area or the other service resources available in each county, contact Heidi Schminke at 319/472-4543, [ccc@bcempowerment.com](mailto:ccc@bcempowerment.com); or Lori Johnson at 641/484-4788, [ljohnson@tamacounty.org](mailto:ljohnson@tamacounty.org). You can also visit our websites at [www.bcempowerment.com](http://www.bcempowerment.com); [www.tamacounty.org/bettertomorrows](http://www.tamacounty.org/bettertomorrows).

##