

# Tama County Early Childhood Iowa

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**Vision:** All children (age 0—5) living in Tama County will be healthy, have a safe, secure, nurturing home and childcare environment, and be ready to succeed in school.

**Mission:** To enhance the quality of life in Tama County by promoting strong, healthy families. Barriers will be overcome and programs and services coordinated through community collaboration.

**Purpose:** To ensure the collaboration within our community will provide our families with children 0—5 years old the resources and opportunities necessary for their children to be healthy, safe, and secure. Be ready to succeed in school, have available affordable, high quality child care, and access to a preschool opportunity.

## Home Visitation Success Story

This Home visitation success story is about a child with torticollis. Torticollis is a condition in which the head tilts one way due to shortening or contracted neck muscles. The Tama Healthy Families home visitor noticed that this child favored one side when the head was lifted. The child also failed a hearing screening, which the ITDS provide for all children. The ITDS referred the child to the doctor and provided the appropriate documentation, after obtaining parent consents. The child was diagnosed with torticollis. The AEA Early Childhood Education Teacher and an AEA physical therapist are working with this child, in addition to continued home visit support from the Infant Toddler Development Specialist.

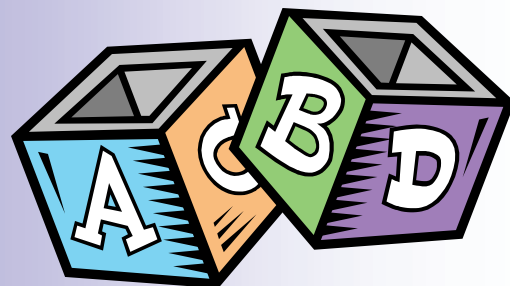
## Why are the programs we support important to reaching our Vision and Mission?

⇒ Home Visits and Stork's Nest offer families parent support and education to provide a safe, secure, nurturing family.

⇒ QRS Standards have increased the quality of our childcare providers to ensure a safe, nurturing child care environment.

### PRIORITIES:

- ◆ Healthy Children
- ◆ Children Ready to Succeed in School
- ◆ Safe & Nurturing Families
- ◆ Safe, Secure, Nurturing Childcare Environments



### What services/programs/activities do we support?

- \*Tama Co. Nest Parent Education Services
- \*Respite Scholarships
- \*Child Care Consultant
- \*Preschool Scholarships/Expansion
- \*Care for Kids Child Abuse Prevention Program
- \*Childcare Provider Trainings/Professional Development
- \*Quality Early Childcare Environments
- \*Healthy Families Home Visitation/Coordination with Interpreters
- \*Lead Care Coordination
- \*Nurse Consultant
- \*Dental Hygienist
- \*Coordinator/Board Support

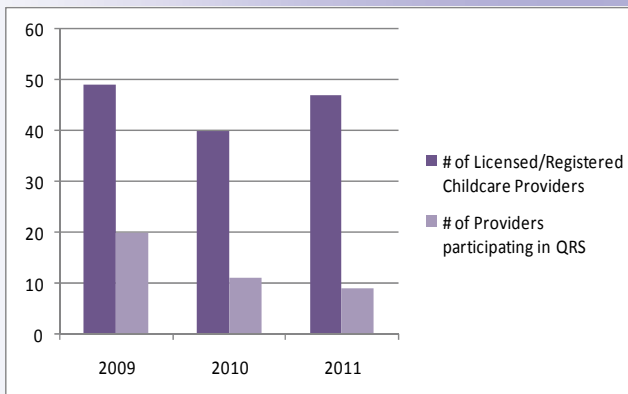
### What can you do to help?

- ◆ Contact your local legislators and let them know how much you appreciate and value Early Childhood Iowa's services.
- ◆ Contact Child Care Resource and Referral for questions regarding local quality childcare providers and support them.
- ◆ Partner and collaborate with Tama County Early Childhood Iowa Board to assure children in Tama County are receiving adequate services to make sure they are healthy, ready to succeed in school and have a safe, secure, nurturing family and quality childcare environment.
- ◆ Leave access/support for services in Tama County so clients/families don't have to drive 40 miles to access services.
- ◆ Leave funding decisions locally, based on our individual county's needs.

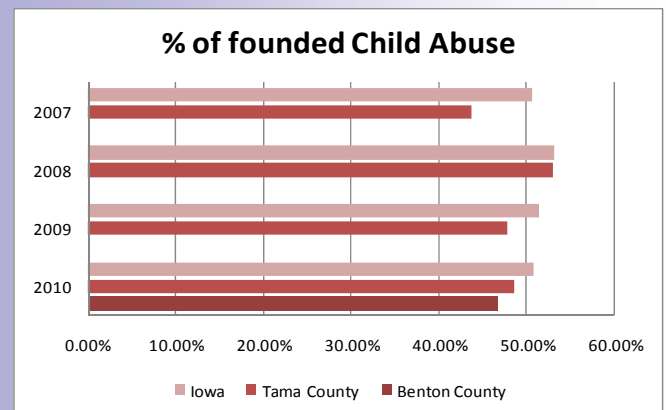
### Others within our community working on similar issues:

- ◆ Tama County Public Health & Home Care
- ◆ Supporting Kids in Prevention (SKIP)
- ◆ Mid-Iowa Community Action (MICA)
- ◆ Department of Human Services
- ◆ Meskwaki Settlement School
- ◆ South Tama County School District
- ◆ North Tama School District
- ◆ Ministerial Association
- ◆ Pied Piper Preschool & Childcare
- ◆ Kid's Corner Daycare
- ◆ Crayon Corner Learning Center
- ◆ Raggedy Ann & Andy Preschool
- ◆ Area Education Agency 267
- ◆ Iowa State University Extension of Tama County
- ◆ Child Care Resource & Referral
- ◆ Child Abuse Prevention Services
- ◆ Tama County Board of Supervisors
- ◆ Local Citizens

The # of providers has decreased due to the restructuring of DHS and the increased difficulty to become registered.



“With increased awareness and change in policies and practices, more cases of abuse are being identified” - Jana Enfield, Child Abuse Prevention Services



### Did You Know?

Got a minute to: Eat with me...

Talk to me...

Ask me...

Taking time to do these things with your children are ways to help develop the assets that they need to succeed. Taking a minute and showing interest in a child provides communication, love and support that shows them they are appreciated and “cared” for. Asset building helps communities and society by building strengths in children, youth, and families which make a community stronger. A community committed to supporting young people can attract new residents who are looking for a good place to raise their children. The positive focus of asset building “rubs off” on all aspects of community life, making everyone feel more positive and connected.

Source: You can Make a Difference for Kids—40 assets all kids need to succeed!