

# FMC Early Childhood Iowa FY 2019

(Chickasaw, Floyd, Mitchell)

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**Vision:** Children, prenatal to school age, will live in a healthy, safe, nurturing environment in order to become successful and contributing members of our community. Families will be strengthened and empowered through support services leading to their self-sufficiency.

**Mission:** FMC ECI works to provide assistance so each child has a right to be safe, healthy, nurtured, and educated; families are the primary caregivers and educators of their children; working collaboratively results in eliminating barriers, meeting identified objectives, and utilizing resources.

**Who is the FMC Early Childhood Iowa Area organization and board?**  
The FMC Early Childhood Iowa Area board is comprised of 10 volunteer community leaders, citizens and elected officials who oversee two Iowa grants. The grants are specifically for children in the Floyd, Mitchell and Chickasaw area, age birth to five. The School Ready grant prepares youngsters to be "school ready". An Early Childhood grant helps childcare providers and daycare centers with technical assistance and professional development. Within that framework are several active collaborative provider partnerships working together through a variety of successful established systems and referrals. The Family Support providers are all credentialed, adding an additional level of professionalism to the FMC ECI system.

## Important Information to Know -\*

**Families Need Quality Childcare:** In our area 173,476 children under age 6 potentially need childcare. Full-time care requested: 84%, part-time 13% \**Childcare Aware of America*: <http://www.childcareaware.org/>  
**FMC's FY 19 home visitation programs:** Families Together participants improved Connections to Concrete Supports (13%), Social Supports (up 44%) and Healthy Family Functioning (up 36%) over FY 18 outcome measures, as reported by DAISEY FY 19 data.

## Why are the programs we support important for achieving our vision and mission?

✓ Child Care Resource and Referral actively works to improve the quality and accessibility of child care in the FMC area.  
✓ The Family Support/home visitation (Families Together) and Learning Connections Family Support group programs help families learn vital skills. Children whose families have stable home environments and parental tools have a better chance to succeed. Chronic stress from abuse, neglect or living in deep poverty can be toxic to the developing brain, according to "Pediatrics: Official Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics 129, No.1"

## COMMUNITY PLAN PRIORITIES:

1. Secure and Nurturing Early Care Environments
2. Secure and Nurturing Families
3. Children Ready to Succeed in School
4. Safe and Secure Communities
5. Healthy Children

## Services and programs supported through FMC's Early Childhood Iowa grants:

### Early Childhood Grant:

Child Care Resource & Referral: Child Care Consultant provides technical assistance, consultation, training, and support services for FMC area providers and centers

### School Ready Grant:

**Family Support/Parent Education:** Families Together/Lutheran Services of IA (parent ed/home visitation); Learning Connections in the Charles City Community School District, St. Ansgar Community School District/Mitchell County and in FY 19, the addition of the New Hampton Community School District in Chickasaw County.  
**Preschool Programming Support for Low Income Families:** Preschool scholarships & Head Start (preschool expansion of days/hours).  
**Quality Improvement:** Coordination services for the FMC ECI area and program partners