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## Early Childhood News

*From Dubuque County Early Childhood - a nonprofit that builds collaboration around the needs of families with young children.*

**Shared Vision: "All Children in Dubuque County are Healthy and Successful."**

**March 2017**  
**[www.dcearlychild.org](http://www.dcearlychild.org)**

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[Dubuque County Early Childhood](#)

[Early Childhood Iowa](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

### Advocacy Opportunity

For weekly info on early childhood efforts and bills in Iowa's current legislative session, sign up for an e-newsletter from Every Child Counts. Go to:

**Every Child Counts Sign-Up**

## Family Fun at the Bunny Hop



Dubuque County Early Childhood's family support program, Parents as Teachers, invites families to a Bunny Hop on April 11. It's a free event open to the community. RSVPs are required - see below for more info.

The Bunny Hop will take place at from 6-7 p.m. at Fulton School Gym, 2420 Central Ave, Dubuque. Go in the doors on the White St. side of the building. It's specially geared for families with children age 0-5, but older siblings can attend, too.

To RSVP, contact Julie Raymond at (563) 557-3100, ext. 2323, or [jraymond@fouroaks.org](mailto:jraymond@fouroaks.org). The deadline for RSVPs is April 6. When responding, provide the following:

- \* Names of those who will attend
- \* Children's ages
- \* Any allergies
- \* If family participates in Parents as Teachers program

So sign up your bunnies, and enjoy a family night out to sing,

dance, and play together.



## Upcoming Meetings - Dubuque County Early Childhood

**Executive/Finance Committee** - March 7, 10:00 a.m., location to be determined

**Early Care and Education Committee** - March 13, 1:00 p.m., Keystone AEA

**Long-Range Planning Committee** - March 17, 9:00 a.m., Lutheran Services in Iowa

**Board Development Committee** - March 20, 11:00 a.m., Keystone AEA

**Dubuque County Early Childhood Board** - March 28, 12:00 p.m., Keystone AEA

NOTE: Meetings are subject to change. To obtain meeting agendas, minutes, or location/directions - contact DCEC at (563) 588-1620, [sedward24@aol.com](mailto:sedward24@aol.com). All meetings are open to the public and are held at locations reasonably accessible to the public. Submit questions or requests for special accommodations to (563) 588-1620.

## Help Children Get Creative and Learn

This spring, Dubuque County Early Childhood (DCEC) is hosting its annual Children's Drawing Contest. The contest is open to any child age 0-5 in Dubuque County. This year's theme is "Be the Hero - it takes only one person to make a positive difference in a child's life."

To enter, children can draw a picture of their family or favorite adult hero on the entry form and submit by April 30. Entry forms are being distributed throughout the county in children's school backpacks. They also are available by requesting copies from DCEC at (563) 588-1620, [sedward24@aol.com](mailto:sedward24@aol.com). Here is more info:

## 2017 Children's Drawing Contest

*"Be the Hero"*

From Dubuque County Early Childhood  
www.dcearlychild.org



*"Be the Hero"* – it takes only one person to make a positive difference in a child's life. By spending time together – parents, child care providers, and others in the community can help young children grow and thrive. This year, Dubuque County Early Childhood, a local nonprofit, is helping children celebrate their families and other adult heroes with this Children's Drawing Contest.

### Instructions

The drawing contest is for children ages 0 through kindergarten who live in Dubuque County. On the other side of this form, have children use colored pencils, crayons, or markers to **draw a picture of themselves with family or other favorite adults**. Fill out the entry form below. One entry per child.

### Submitting an Entry

Submit entries by April 30, 2017, in person or by mail to one of the following locations:

- ☞ Dubuque County Early Childhood, 2310 Chaney Rd. (in Keystone AEA on 1<sup>st</sup> floor), Dubuque, IA 52001
- ☞ Child Care Resource & Referral, Atrium Building, 2728 Asbury Rd., Suite #215, Dubuque, IA 52001

### Your Child Could Win

Prizes will be awarded to randomly drawn entries in age ranges (up to age 1; 2 years old; 3 years old; 4 years old; 5-kindergarten) and announced in May. Prize packages may include toys, books, crafts, etc.

To submit a drawing, complete ALL blanks below and return this sheet:

Child's First and Last Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Address, City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Age of Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*All of the above information must be completed to be eligible for prizes. Entries may be used for publicity purposes. Children's last names will not be publicized. Entries will be returned only upon request.*

### Proudly Sponsored By:



Dubuque County Early Childhood (DCEC) helps children age birth-five be healthy and successful. DCEC reaches over 5,000 children annually through preschool scholarships, Parents as Teachers program, health screenings, Kids Expos, and more. For more info, call (563) 588-1620 or go to [www.dcearlychild.org](http://www.dcearlychild.org), [www.facebook.com/DubuqueCountyEmpowerment](https://www.facebook.com/DubuqueCountyEmpowerment).



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## Dental Health is Important for Young Children



The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) reminds Iowans that the key to a lifelong, healthy smile is early preventive care. This includes regular dental care even for very young children.

The following oral health guidelines are important to help young children have healthy teeth and mouths. Begin regular dental visits by the age of one year, use fluoridated water, and brush teeth twice a day. All this can help prevent painful cavities from forming in a child's mouth.

"A child with cavities and a painful mouth can lose focus while learning new skills at school and at home. They may also have difficulty eating food, which helps their bodies to grow," said Stephanie Chickering, Registered Dental Hygienist, IDPH Oral Health Center. "A child with a healthy mouth will have more confidence when speaking, eating, and smiling."

The IDPH I-Smile™ Dental Home Initiative is a program that helps Iowa's children connect with dental services. Using a team approach, dentists provide definitive evaluation and treatment when it is needed. Other health professionals such as dental hygienists, physicians, and nurses are a part of a larger network and can provide oral screenings, education, anticipatory guidance, and preventive services as needed.

For more information visit [www.idph.iowa.gov/ohds/oral-health-center](http://www.idph.iowa.gov/ohds/oral-health-center).

*This article is reprinted courtesy of the Quality Care for Kids newsletter, February 2017.*

### For More Info

Dubuque County Early Childhood (formerly Empowerment), 2310 Chaney Road,  
Dubuque IA 52001, Phone (563) 588-1620, fax not currently available  
[www.dcearlychild.org](http://www.dcearlychild.org), [sedward24@aol.com](mailto:sedward24@aol.com)



, 2728 Asbury Road, Suite 500, Dubuque, Iowa 52001

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