

Connect for Kids February 2010

You could be the difference kids need in this tight fiscal year.

Take action as an individual, family, organization, child care home, child development center, group, association, business, etc.... Invest in one or more activities a week for young children in February 2010.

<p>Week 1 February 1-7</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Big Idea for the week</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mail post cards with a short message to your legislators.</p> <p><i>More ideas:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify who your legislators are http://www.legis.state.ia.us/FindLeg/ - Sign-up for your legislators e-newsletter. <p>Tip- Connect your message/story to data. Like the data that can be found at http://www.aecf.org/MajorInitiatives/KIDSCOUNT.aspx</p>
<p>Week 2 February 8-14</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Big Idea for the week</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Send kid crafts and a short written message to the capital.</p> <p><i>More ideas:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Post an early childhood statistic/ short message on a social network (Facebook, twitter, MySpace, etc...) - Sign-up for early childhood advocacy alerts and e-newsletters like Every Child Counts http://www.everychildcountsiowa.org/ and Every Child Matters http://www.everychildmatters.org/. <p>Tip- When you receive an e-newsletter from your legislator reply with words of thanks for action(s) you agree with and/or a one sentence statement of your concern.</p>
<p>Week 3 February 15-21</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Big Idea for the week</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Carpool for kids to a legislative event or the state capital.</p> <p><i>More ideas:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Search for legislator events on your legislator's web page/newsletter, local media calendars and advocacy websites. - Get tips from Visiting the Iowa Capital guide http://www.everychildcountsiowa.org/files/file/2008%20Visiting%20the%20Capitol.pdf <p>Tip- Take young children as appropriate when you go to a legislative event or the capital.</p>
<p>Week 4 February 22-28</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Big Idea for the week</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Issue a press release on how you serve young children and families.</p> <p><i>More ideas:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read through an advocacy tool kit http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/tools/tool_kit.html - Partner with Early Childhood Iowa http://www.state.ia.us/earlychildhood/get_involved/index.html <p>Tip- Have preapproved contact information ready, from a family you serve, for possible media or legislative follow-up.</p>

Resources:

Find your legislator <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/FindLeg/>

How a bill becomes a law <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/Pubinfo/bill2law.htm>

Iowa General Assembly <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/index.html>

Register to Vote http://www.sos.state.ia.us/elections/voterreg/reg_to_vote.html

Iowa Congressional Delegation

<http://www.everychildcountsiowa.org/files/file/Iowa's%20Congressional%20Delegation.pdf>

Legal Services Division Legislative Guide

<http://www.legis.state.ia.us/Central/Guides/gaguide.pdf>

Visiting the Capital information packet by every child counts

<http://www.everychildcountsiowa.org/files/file/2008%20Visiting%20the%20Capitol.pdf>

Parents as Advocates

<http://www.state.ia.us/earlychildhood/docs/PARENTSasADVOCATES.pdf>

Advocacy Tool Kit http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/tools/tool_kit.html

Early Childhood Iowa http://www.state.ia.us/earlychildhood/get_involved/index.html

Every Child Counts <http://www.everychildcountsiowa.org/>

Every Child Matters <http://www.everychildmatters.org/>

It's About our kids <http://www.itsaboutourkids.org/>

Families USA; The Voice for health care consumers <http://www.familiesusa.org/>