

***Because a child's first years are the most critical in terms of development, it is imperative that interventions occur early in a child's life . . .***



The Child Development Coordinating Council (CDCC) advises the Department of Education regarding the administration and implementation of state funded at risk programs for children ages birth to five. The CDCC supports high quality comprehensive early childhood programs helping children become successful in school and as adults.

State funds provide parent support grants to assist low-income families and quality child development programs for at-risk preschoolers.

### **Mission Statement**

To advocate for Iowa's children and families and to administer model child development and parent programs for young children and families at risk.

The CDCC and Shared Visions programs are committed to ensuring the development, delivery and promotion of quality, family-centered early childhood services and includes equity of access to these services for all of Iowa's children and their families.



**For further information on the Shared Visions program contact:**

Susan Andersen at  
515-281-4747 or [Susan.Andersen@iowa.gov](mailto:Susan.Andersen@iowa.gov)

Every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful



**Shared Visions Program**



## Shared Visions Parent Support Grants Provide:

- Family support that serves high-risk children in approximately 15 Iowa counties.
- Trusting and respectful relationships that build upon each family's strengths. Many families are assisted in furthering their education and finding employment. Parent Support Programs connect families with resources to support child care such as subsidies from the Department of Human Services.
- Home visiting, children's play groups, and parent education meetings to address the needs of each family and honor their cultural and ethnic background.
- Qualified staff have at least an associate of arts (AA) degree in early childhood education, social services, or nursing. More than 76 percent of the staff have a Bachelor's degree with some individuals holding a Master's or Doctoral degree.



## Shared Visions Preschool Programs Provide:

- Preschool programs for high-risk children in 51 Iowa counties.
- Preschool programs accredited by National Association for the Education of Young Children, an accreditation process that demonstrates a high standard of quality and developmentally appropriate practices.
- Developmental screening to determine if a child is at risk for a disability and to link families with appropriate resources to address the growth and development needs of their child.



### Quality Staff:

Seventy-nine percent of Shared Visions preschool teachers have a four-year degree with the majority of the teachers holding a degree in early childhood education.

### Quality Programs:

Over 91 percent of Iowa programs were considered good quality as compared to less than 20 percent of programs nationwide (National Center on Early Development and Learning, 1999).



### Kindergarten Readiness

Shared Visions graduates met or exceeded kindergarten teachers' performance expectations in reading, writing, and problem solving (Zan & Edmiaston, 2000).

### Academic performance

Over 80 percent of the Shared Visions graduates were rated at or above average in reading and writing at the end of kindergarten (Zan & Edmiaston, 2000).

### Special Education Referrals

Fewer than eight percent of Shared Visions graduates were receiving special education services by the end of kindergarten (Zan & Edmiaston, 2000).

### Long-term Social Effects

Second grade teachers rated Shared Visions graduates higher on internal assets, including positive values, social competencies, and positive identity, than children who did not participate in Shared Visions Preschool Programs (Regents' Center for Early Developmental Education, 2000, unpublished data).