

# BVCS Early Childhood Iowa

Buena Vista, Crawford & Sac Counties  
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Mission: To improve the quality to life for children and families by strongly supporting safe environments, lifelong learning and facilitating a coordinated system for community services.

## Why are the programs we support important to reaching our vision and mission?

- Strengthen families,
- Substantiate child care programs, and
- Encourage collaboration.

### Did you know?

Tooth decay is the most common childhood disease (source, the Pew Center on the States).

### Community Plan & Priorities:

1. Families participating in home visitation and parent education programs.
2. Allowing preschool age children access to quality preschool programs.
3. Nurturing home and center early child care environments.
4. Health prevention measures.

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

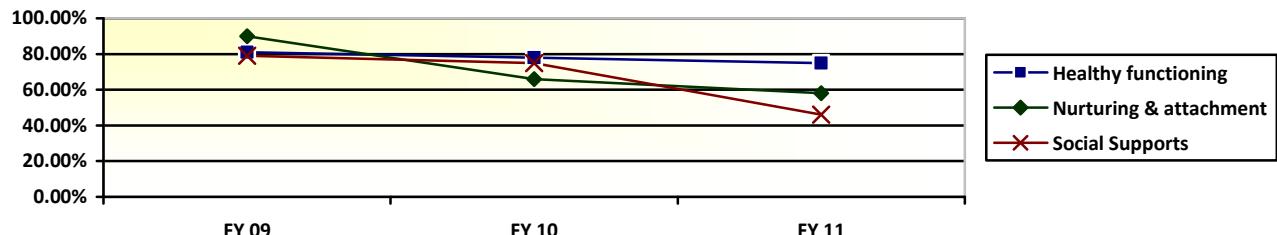
- Program Coordination; Program Director for the BVCS ECI Area
- Home Visitation/Parent Education; Family STEPS located in local Public Health Agencies
- Child Care Consultant; Child Care Resource & Referral located at Mid-Sioux Opportunity
- Child Care Nurse Consultant; located in Maternal Child Health Agencies
- Early Childhood Provider Education; Child Care Resource & Referral located at Mid-Sioux Opportunity
- Preschool Children Oral Health; I-Smile Programs
- Preschool Scholarship/Support; Preschools achieving at least one of the following, Level 3 with the Quality Rating System, Quality Preschool Program Verification, or National Accreditation

**Vision: Every child at birth will be healthy and successful**

### **Family STEPS Home Visitation Program**

- Indicator: Confirmed or founded abuse reports of children 0-18.
- Performance: Participating families that improve or maintain healthy functioning, problem solving and communication,
- Participating families that improve nurturing and attachment between parent(s) and child(ren), and
- Participating families that improve or maintain social supports.

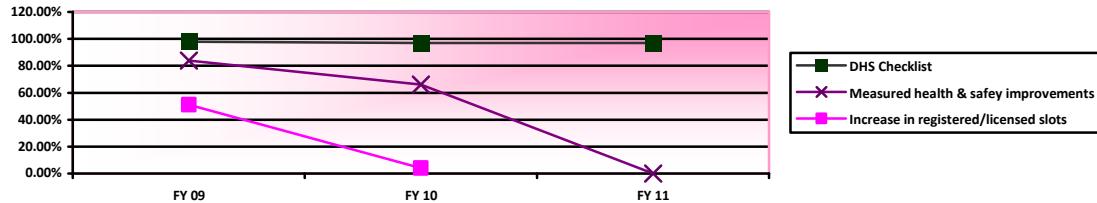
What can you do to help? Be-friend families when they move into your neighborhood.



### **Child Care Consultants**

- Indicator: Number of slots available in a registered/licensed childcare setting
- Performance: Percentage that improve health and safety conditions in their early learning environment
- Percentage increase or maintain in the number of child care slots in regulated child care (includes registered & licensed slots.)

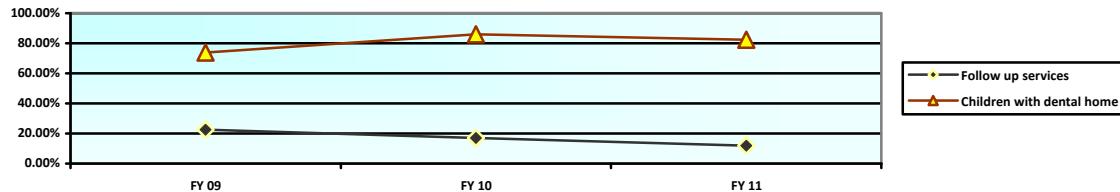
What can you do to help? Be aware that non-registered family childcare can care for no more than five children legally in the state of Iowa.



### **Oral Health Prevention Service**

- Indicator: Dental Treatment Age 1-5 Receiving Preventative Dental Services.
- Performance Measure: Percentage of children that needed follow up services

What can you do to help? Donate toothbrushes and toothpaste to food pantries.



### **A Local Oral Health Story:**

At one center the I-Smile Coordinator, found a mother who was very reluctant to sign her son up for the services. After talking with the mom, she found out that the child was extremely afraid to go into the dental office. He cried as soon as they pulled up to the building and mom turned the car around to head for home. This had happened several times. Mom thought with age, he would grow out of it. The Coordinator assured the mom they would work with him to make it a positive experience. He was very apprehensive, but the end result was that the child completed all of the services offered. He was very proud of himself for it. The Oral Health Program allows children a great first dental experience, without the stress of the dental office.