

GOAL

To work in collaboration with citizens to improve the lives of children and families in Boone and Story Counties

PRIORITIES

Providing, enhancing or expanding affordable, quality, accessible childcare

- Preschool Services
- Infant Care
- Crisis childcare
- Home visitation
- Parent support services

MISSION

The mission of the BooSt Together for Children Board is to help individuals and their communities to improve the well-being of children, ages birth to 5, and their families.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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CHILDREN IN BOONE AND STORY COUNTIES

- X NUMBER OF CHILDREN 0-5 IN BOONE AND STORY COUNTIES
- Y CHILDREN IN PRESCHOOL
- 40% THE PERCENT OF CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH
- Z THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN 0-5 WHO WERE ABUSED OR NEGLECTED LAST YEAR IN BOONE AND STORY COUNTIES
- 2000 (THE NUMBER OF DAYS FROM BIRTH TO ENTERING KINDERGARTEN)

BOOST TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN



A preschooler shares a learning activity with her sister at a family day held by her class. BooSt Together for Children funding helps to support preschool programs throughout Boone and Story Counties.

“Community Planning for Children and Families”

PURPOSE

Early childhood is a time of rapid growth and development. It is important to give children safe and stimulating environments to help them achieve all they are capable of. The purpose of BooSt Together for Children is to help families of children birth to age 5 find affordable, high quality care and education services.

It is expected that helping young children get off to a good start will benefit the family and society as a whole. Quality childcare environments are best achieved when individuals and their communities, governments, and private agencies work collaboratively within communities.

We believe that individuals in local communities working together will identify and implement the best means for attaining this goal. The role of the Early Childhood Iowa Board, state agencies, and the local BooSt Together for Children Board is to help communities create safe and supportive settings to raise our children.

For more information, visit the BooSt Together for Children Web Site
www.boostforchildren.org.

For more information about Early Childhood Iowa, visit
www.state.ia.us/earlychildhood/

FUNDING PARAMETERS

Early Childhood Funds

- Enhance quality childcare capacity in support of parent capability to obtain or retain employment.
- Regular childcare, including recruitment of providers
- Mildly ill childcare
- Second- or third-shift childcare
- Infant care
- Provide training to center and home-based providers
- Assist providers in meeting licensing, registration, or accreditation standards.
- Enhance linkages with Head Start, Early Head Start, child development programs, and childcare programs.
- Provide information in assisting parents to select a quality childcare environment.

School Ready Funds

- Child day care services
- Children's health and safety services
- Home visitation and parent support programs.
- Assist low-income parents with preschool tuition.
- Professional development activities with area education agencies and community colleges.

Note: Not all the above services are funded by BooSt. We work with local communities to determine what they see as the highest priorities to fund.

BOOSt TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN

VISION STATEMENT

BooSt Together for Children envisions communities that have capacity and commitment that lead to:

- *Healthy Children*
- *Children Ready to Succeed in School*
- *Secure and Nurturing Child Care Environments*
- *Secure and Nurturing Families, and*
- *A Safe and Supportive Community*

Area Served &

History of Development

What is known today as Early Childhood Iowa began in 1998 as Iowa Community Empowerment. Its goal was to work directly with local communities to build on what they were already doing to provide quality child care services. On July 1, 2012 the Boone and Story County Empowerment Boards combined to form BooSt Together for Children. The combined board serves all of Boone and Story Counties. It includes the following school districts: Ames, Boone, Collins-Maxwell, Colo-Nesco, Ballard-Huxley, Roland-Story, Gilbert, Madrid, Ogden, Nevada and United.