

Iowa Head Start Association October 30, 2007 Diversity Networking Session

Goals and Objectives:

1. Participants become familiar with the 'Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory.'
2. Participants have the awareness of the changing population demographics in the state of Iowa and Head Start.
3. Participants gain an understanding of the barriers and challenges faced by ELL and immigrant families in accessing care and education services for their children.
4. Participants identify local issues that act as barriers for ELL and immigrant families.
5. Participants identify resources in their community and program that can assist families overcome the barriers.

Detailed list of activities:

- Presentation on cultural diversity and working with families from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.
- Small and large group discussion to identify local issues that act as barriers for ELL and resources in their community and program that can assist families overcome the barriers.
- Participants will develop an action plan and identify outcomes and strategies to implement in their program and potentially influence their local community.

Materials for Instructor and Participants:

1. The challenges of change: Learning from the child care and early education experiences of immigrant families. Authors: Hannah Matthews and Deena Jang. Center for Law and Social Policy. May 2007.
2. Toward an early care and education agenda for Hispanic children. Authors: Ray Collins & Rose Ribeiro. Early Childhood Research & Practice. Spring 2004.