

What is *Project REACH*?

(Rural Early Childhood)

Project REACH is the brain-child of Dr. Kathy Thornburg, University of Missouri at Columbia and past president of the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Since its beginning in 1994, the program continues to support practitioners of early care and education in rural communities.

Henry County's *Project REACH* was started in August of 2000 and has become a major support for over fifty child care programs in every incorporated town in the county. Child care providers and parents alike have accessed the services of the Early Childhood Specialist. This project, supported by Healthy Henry County Communities and Iowa State University Extension, offers ongoing, comprehensive, and individualized training to home or center providers so the quality of childcare improves quickly and can be maintained over time.

Sound parenting practice, quality early care and education, and health care are essential to a child's healthy growth and development. *Project REACH* establishes links between child care providers and existing services to insure all children receive a solid foundation for success in school and life.

Project REACH has proven that supporting early care and education practitioners enriches the lives of young children in rural communities by increasing the quality of care and learning experiences they offer.



HEALTHY HENRY COUNTY COMMUNITIES

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
University Extension

Project REACH

Improving the quality of child care and children's readiness for school by providing caregivers with:

- Education
- Support
- Individualized assistance
- Opportunities for professional development



Anita Hampton

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"The adult/child relationship is the single most important factor in how the children perceive themselves. Self-concept ultimately determines how a child interacts with the world and affects later relationships and success in school. Make every interaction count!"

--Anita

Project REACH

Offering support and information on:

- Caregiver/Parent relationships
- Home/provider communication
- Local resources/field trips
- Stress and anger control
- Learning through play
- Language development
- Guidance and discipline
- Health and safety
- Nutritious snacks
- Professionalism
- Business practices
- Playground safety
- Science activities
- Printed resources
- CPR and first aid
- Creativity
- Lending Toys



- ➡ On-site visits
- ➡ Regular Group Support Workshops
- ➡ **Star*REACH**
- ➡ Program for Infant/Toddler (PITC)
- ➡ Young Parents Book Group

**Assistance provided
on-site and at group support
workshops at no cost.**