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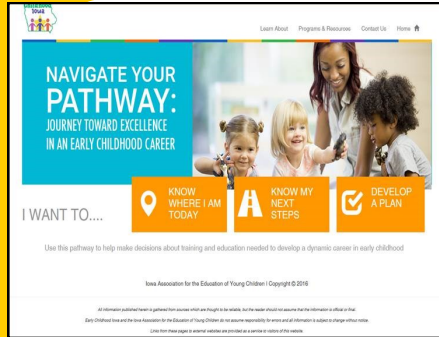


# Quality Care For Kids

A newsletter for Scott  
Child Care Providers

Written by Jane Matzen, RN and Heidi Hotvedt, RN

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The Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children (Iowa AEYC) and Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) announce the launch

of a unique career pathway website designed to assist the Iowa early care and education workforce to make decisions regarding training and formal education needed to develop a dynamic career.

The early care and education workforce in Iowa includes approximately 20,000 adults who earn among the lowest wages of any profession in Iowa. Low pay is a widespread issue that increases turnover

and decreases quality in child care and other early childhood programs. The new website provides the workforce with needed information to move forward on a career pathway to increase their knowledge and skills, which can lead to increased wages. To learn more go to the Navigate your Pathway website at [www.ecieducationpathway.org](http://www.ecieducationpathway.org) or contact Iowa AEYC at [info@iowaaeyc.org](mailto:info@iowaaeyc.org).

Call your Child Care Nurse Consultant if you have any questions about child health and safety, or any special training needs.



[www.earlychildhoodiowa.org](http://www.earlychildhoodiowa.org)

The Child Care Nurse Consultant Program is funded by



Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) is a bacteria that mainly causes skin infections in healthy people. It is a problem because some antibiotics do not work to cure it.

When MRSA causes skin infections, there may be red bumps that progress to pus-filled boils or abscesses. Sometimes it progresses to cellulitis, which causes redness and swelling of the skin. Rarely, the infection spreads from the skin into deeper tissues causing a dangerous infection.

How is MRSA spread? MRSA most commonly causes infection through a break in the skin, such as a bug bite, cut, or scrape. Children and adults may carry MRSA and can spread it, even when they do not have symptoms. MRSA is spread by close skin-to-skin contact, direct contact with open sores or boils, and contact with surfaces that have come in contact with the bacteria.

What can be done to prevent the spread of MRSA in child care?

1. Wash your hands with liquid soap and water. Wet hands, apply soap, scrub for 20 seconds, rinse, and dry with a paper towel.
2. Cover red and draining sores with a dry bandage and tape on all 4 sides to prevent

## MRSA

bacteria from spreading. Report the problem to parents and recommend they consult their child's health care provider.

3. Avoid sharing personal items such as towels, bar soap, and clothing.
4. Follow recommendations for cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting.

Does a child with MRSA infection need to be excluded from childcare? No, unless:

- The child has open or draining sores that cannot be covered with a dry bandage.
- The child cannot participate comfortably in activities.
- The staff cannot care for the child with MRSA without compromising their ability to care for the health and safety of other children in their group.
- The child has a fever

For more information contact your local child care nurse consultant. Handwashing posters, *Common Child Care Illnesses and Exclusion Criteria*, and *Using Chemicals Wisely* (Cleaning, Sanitizing, Disinfecting) are available on the Healthy Child Care Iowa website at [www.idph.iowa.gov/hcci/products](http://www.idph.iowa.gov/hcci/products)



Picture of MRSA wound from the public health image library.