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**INDIANA ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN (INAEYC)
RECEIVES A GRANT FROM THE ACKERMAN FOUNDATION**

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – INAEYC, a leading statewide early care and education organization, is thrilled to announce that it has been awarded a grant from the Ackerman Foundation. This grant will bring *Early Literacy Expansion Aligned with the Science of Reading* training to early childhood educators in Central Indiana in collaboration with the Early Childhood Center (ECC), Indiana Institute on Disability and Community (IIDC), Indiana University (IU).

This funding will enable us to:

- **SoR-Aligned Training:** Equip over 300 educators with age-appropriate strategies aligned to the Science of Reading (e.g., sound awareness in toddlers, oral language in preschoolers) to strengthen early literacy.
- **Family Engagement:** Provide tools and strategies to empower over 7,500 families that will extend early literacy practices at home.
- **Data-Informed Refinement:** Conduct ongoing data collection and analysis over the 12-month program to improve and scale the model for a broader impact across Indiana.

This training will also have long-term outcomes for Hoosier teachers and students:

- Strengthened early language, vocabulary, and phonological awareness skills in children entering kindergarten, resulting in improved literacy rates by grade 3
- Reduced literacy gaps for children from underserved communities
- More consistent early literacy instruction across early childhood settings statewide
- Stronger early childhood workforce equipped to provide evidence-based early literacy instruction

ABOUT INDIANA AEYC:

As the state affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), Indiana AEYC is a statewide, nonprofit organization serving Indiana at the local, state, and national levels. Indiana AEYC has a long history of promoting and supporting quality care and education for each and every child, birth through age eight, in Indiana. Our mission is carried out through professional development opportunities, quality program improvement initiatives, and as a champion with public policy pertinent to young children.

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