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# ***Resources and Connections:***

**Enhancing the Quality of Early Learning  
and Early Intervention for Infants, Toddlers, & Their Families**

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An online, Web version of this publication can be viewed at:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/earlychildhoodconnections/Technical.htm>

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## ***Welcome to the First Issue***

Welcome to the introductory issue of *Resources and Connections: Enhancing the Quality of Supports and Services for Infants, Toddlers, and Families*. Early Childhood Connections at the Colorado Department of Education and JFK Partners, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center are working together to present this monthly compilation of useful resources including research abstracts, no-to-low cost products, web links, and upcoming learning events. The purpose of *Resources and Connections* is to help keep you up-to-date on the latest information and opportunities supporting quality practices in early learning and early intervention.

You can request a **FREE** monthly subscription to *Resources and Connections* to be sent by e-mail or U.S. mail. Read the details at the end of this issue.

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## ***Research Brief***

There is a wealth of current literature that supports early intervention service delivery in natural environments. To help you keep in touch with emerging literature each issue of *Resources and Connections* will present an abstract of a published article. This first article was abstracted by Ann Grady, OTR, Ph. D. at JFK Partners.

Dunst, C. and Bruder, M. (1999). Increasing children's learning opportunities in the context of family and community life. Children's Learning Opportunities Report, Volume 1, Number 1.

The Children's Learning Opportunities Early Childhood Research Institute is a 5-year initiative funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. Institute staff are identifying, developing, and evaluating ways of using family and community life as sources of learning opportunities for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers with or at-risk for delays in their development. The Institute evaluates ways of using family and community life as learning opportunities for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers with or at-risk for delays in their development. Learning happens as part of family and community life: daily living, family rituals, and community events and celebrations. Family life consists of 11 different categories of learning opportunities, such as parenting and child routines (e.g. mealtime and bathing), and literary, socialization, and play activities. Community life provides at least 11 categories of learning opportunities, including running errands, shopping, and visiting playgrounds, recreation centers, and other entertainment settings.

**Research Design:** Authors conducted two national surveys of nearly 3300 parents in 48 states, Puerto Rico, and Yap. Surveys were followed by in-depth descriptive studies with 200 hundred families with children at risk for developmental delays and children not known to be at risk in seven states. For the descriptive studies, families were visited up to 12 times over a 6-month period for interviews and observations of the variety their family and community learning experiences. The authors also conducted intervention studies with nearly 75 children with disabilities or delays and their families.

**Findings:** Preliminary findings from the study of children with disabilities or delays indicate that parents prefer interventions that are easy to do, fit into their daily lives, and emphasize children doing and learning things that help them be part of family and community life. The studies also found that "Children, on average, participate in some 150 different kinds of social and physical settings as part of family and community life. These settings in turn provide more than 200 different kinds of learning opportunities."

To read the entire article visit:

<http://www.puckett.org/childlearn/L.O. Newsletter Vol.1,1.htm>

*Editorial Commentary:* Given the findings that parents prefer interventions that fit into their daily lives and that children regularly participate in a large number of learning opportunities, therapists and providers have many possible ways to use their expertise to facilitate children's functional participation in their daily lives.



## **On the Web**

There is a rich array of web sites that contain useful information related to the delivery of supports and services for infants and toddlers and their families. Many of these sites contain downloadable publications, recommended readings, pertinent links, and other useful resources. Each issue of *Resources and Connections* will highlight a link to one or two valuable sites. This first issue highlights the Zero to Three web site.

Zero to Three

<http://www.zerotothree.org/>

Zero to Three is a national non-profit organization whose aim is to strengthen and support families, practitioners and communities to promote the healthy development of infants and toddlers. The Zero to Three web site is chock full of interesting and useful resources for advancing current knowledge; promoting beneficial policies and practices; communicating research and best practices to a wide variety of audiences; and providing training, technical assistance and leadership development. The site includes resources both for *parents* and professionals on topics such as brain development, early literacy, parent tips, child care, special needs, training and consultation, leadership development, policy, and much more. Be sure to check out the sections on the *Magic of Everyday Moments* and the *Learning & Growing Together Strategic Initiative*.

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## **Spotlight on Resources**

Each issue of *Resources and Connections* will spotlight useful publications, videotapes, guidebooks, and other materials. This issue spotlights a video tape about services in delivered in everyday routines and activities, *Just Being Kids*, a collaborative production of the Colorado Department of Education & JFK Partners.

### ***Just Being Kids: Supports and Services For Infants and Toddlers and Their Families In Everyday Routines, Activities, and Places***

*Just Being Kids* illustrates how supports and services for infants and toddlers with special needs can be provided in the context of families' everyday routines, activities, and places. Each of the six stories on this 50 minute video demonstrates recommended practices as therapists and early childhood specialists work collaboratively with families to achieve meaningful goals for their children in everyday routines and activities. *Just Being Kids* was developed for use in both pre-service and in-service training programs with therapists, early childhood specialists, and service coordinators. The video is also useful for showing families examples of this approach to early intervention supports and services. The companion *Facilitator's Guide* offers background information on the stories along with handouts, a bibliography, and suggestions for leading discussion groups and other training activities. Produced by Larry Edelman.



**To Order:** In Colorado, the best way to obtain a copy of *Just Being Kids* is through your local ECC office or your local Community Centered Board. To find out how to contact your local ECC, visit:

[http://www.cde.state.co.us/earlychildhoodconnections/order\\_mat.htm](http://www.cde.state.co.us/earlychildhoodconnections/order_mat.htm)

or call: 1 (888) 777-4041. Those residing outside of Colorado can order *Just Being Kids* by contact Western Media Products toll-free at 1 (800) 232-8902 or order on-line at: [www.media-products.com](http://www.media-products.com). The video and facilitator's guide set is available for \$75.00 plus \$4.75 shipping & handling.

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### **Upcoming Events**

Each issue of *Resources and Connections* will highlight events of interest to those in the early childhood and early intervention community.

The Early Childhood Activities Calendar is a great source of information on many kinds of useful events, particularly training opportunities, conferences, and workshops. This calendar is updated regularly and can be found online at:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/earlychildhoodconnections/Calendar/cal.htm>

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**Subscription Information:** You can request a **FREE** monthly subscription to *Resources and Connections* to be sent by e-mail or U.S. mail.

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**Contact Us:** We invite you to contact the editors of *Resources and Connections* with your submissions, suggestions, and questions.

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**We encourage you to pass along copies of *Resources and Connections* to your colleagues and friends.**