
Resources and Connections

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



November/December, 2003 • Volume 2, Number 5

A bi-monthly newsletter supporting quality practices in early learning and early intervention. See the back page to request a **FREE** monthly email subscription. Online versions can be viewed at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/earlychildhoodconnections/Technical.htm>

Exciting New ECC Training Initiatives

Early Childhood Connections has launched two new training and technical assistance initiatives to support communities' efforts to provide quality early intervention supports and services. Through these two new programs 17 people are available to assist in statewide training and technical assistance.

The Training Cadre

The purpose of **The Training Cadre** is to assist ECC consultants in delivering training and technical assistance in a range of topics, including IFSP development, transdisciplinary practices, and the primary service provider model. Most recently the Cadre members have participated as co-trainers in IFSP training sessions around the state. They are available for follow up to IFSP training as well as for more specific technical assistance as communities work towards implementing transdisciplinary, primary service provider practices. The Cadre includes the following members.

Eileen Bennett is the parent of a daughter with special needs and is employed with Early Childhood Connections for Arapahoe and Douglas Counties as a service coordinator. Eileen has more than ten years experience in service delivery for children and over five years experience in delivering training.

Anastasia Lawhead is the parent of a son with special needs and is employed by the

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Association for Community Living in Boulder. Anastasia has extensive experience providing training and technical assistance for several Colorado organizations, including Division for Developmental Disabilities, Vocational Rehabilitation, Assistive Technology Advisory Board, Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, and the ARC's National Employment and Training Program.

Sandi Link is the parent of two children with special needs and is a bilingual occupational therapist on the Weld County transdisciplinary team. Sandi received her training in transdisciplinary practices at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She has a wealth of training that includes neurodevelopmental treatment (NDT), sensory integration, Brazelton Institute, Newborn Individualized Developmental Care and Assessment Program, (NIDCAP®), and JFK's ENRICH project.

Jodi Naeger is a contracted speech and language pathologist working in the Denver metro area. Prior to doing contract work Jodi was the Early Intervention Team Manager at Developmental Disabilities Resource Center in Jefferson County. There she was a member of a transdisciplinary team and had several years of experience in the primary service provider model.

Deb Schell-Frank has a degree in early childhood special education and is currently employed by RAFT (the local Part C office) in Larimer County as the Interagency

Coordinator. Her work there has provided her the opportunity to connect regularly with local early childhood providers. Deb has over 20 years experience in the field of disabilities, which includes various types of program development.

To request support from one of the cadre members contact your community's Early Childhood Connections consultant or Penny Dell at (303) 866-6848 or dell_p@cde.state.co.us

Assistive Technology Specialists Project

The purpose of this project is to increase the awareness and use of assistive technology (AT) for Part C eligible children and their families across the state. To accomplish this, Early Childhood Connections and Assistive Technology Partners have joined forces to train 12 service providers from across the state to serve as AT Specialists in their local areas. This past November the specialists participated in a two-day training session focusing on the use of assistive technology to support infants and toddlers to participate independently in their everyday lives. The AT Specialists are available to provide information and resources to IFSP teams as well as provide direct support/consultation to Part C eligible children and their families. In addition, the AT Specialists have access to the Assistive Technology Partners loaner bank of AT equipment. The 12 AT Specialists include the following members.

Christy Alden, OTR is an occupational therapist who contracts with RAFT and Foothills-Gateway, the Community Centered Board serving Larimer County. She is also a member of the Thompson School District Child Find team. Christy has had a variety of experiences working with assistive technology.

Krista Dahm, MS, CCC-SLP is a speech and language pathologist who provides services for Vail Valley Home Health Care, Early Childhood Connections of Summit County, and Mountain Valley Developmental Services which is the Community Centered Board serving Garfield, Eagle, Lake, and Pitkin counties. Krista has had valuable experience in assistive technology including participating on a SWAAC (Statewide Assistive Augmentative Communication) team.

Margaret Davey, CDS works for Community Options as a Developmental Specialist. Community Options is the Community Centered Board that serves Delta, Montrose, Ouray, San Miguel, Hinsdale and Gunnison counties.

Ginny Gaige, MA, CCC-SLP is a speech and language pathologist who is a member of the new south Weld County ENRICHMENT team that provides services to families in Weld, Adams, and Boulder Counties. Ginny has experience working with assistive technology and is also bilingual.

Deb Huss, MA, ECSE is an early childhood special educator for the San Luis Board of Cooperative Services (BOCS) which serves the 6 counties in the San Luis Valley. She is also a new member of the San Luis Valley SWAAC team.

Becky McNab, OTR is an occupational therapist who provides services for North Metro Community Services, the Community Centered Board serving Adams County. Becky has had experience consulting with families and therapists on various computer programs, switch toys, and communication devices.

JoAnn Roberts, PT is a physical therapist who works in Grand and Jackson Counties as an employee of Horizons Specialized Services. JoAnn also owns a small pediatric therapy practice that serves families in Grand, Clear Creek, Jefferson, Gilpin, Adams, and Boulder Counties. She is also the OT/PT coordinator for northwest Colorado's Health Care Program for Children with Special Needs (HCP). JoAnn has extensive experience in using adaptations and assistive technology.

Lesli Slater, MSPT is a physical therapist in El Paso County. She is employed by Community Partnership for Child Development (Early Head Start and Head Start) and contracts with Resources for Young Children and Families and The Resource Exchange (TRE), the Community Centered Board serving El Paso, Teller and Park Counties.

Tiffani Titus, MPT is a physical therapist and a member of the Douglas County Community Intervention Team. She has received training on assistive technology through the JFK Fellowship program.

Danielle Tornambe, MPT is employed by Developmental Disabilities Resource Center (DDRC), the Community Centered Board serving Jefferson, Clear Creek, Gilpin, and Summit counties. She is also a member of DDRC's transdisciplinary early intervention team.

Irene Turner, MS, CCC-SLP is a speech and language pathologist and is employed by Mesa Developmental Services (MDS) in Grand Junction. MDS is the Community Centered Board serving Mesa County. Irene has had experience in augmentative communication and adaptive toy applications.

Karen Willeke, RN is a registered nurse employed by Eastern Colorado Services, the Community Centered Board serving the northeast and north central counties of Colorado. Karen works primarily in Logan, Washington, Phillips, Sedgwick, Yuma, and Morgan counties.

IFSP Teams should contact an AT Specialist directly to request their services. Please note that when the service of an AT Specialist is identified for an individual child, it must be related to an outcome in the child's IFSP and should be documented on the Supports and Services page of the IFSP. Contact information for each of the Specialists will be sent out to communities and posted on the Early Childhood Connections web site in January. Look for a link on the front page under "What's New" of the Early Childhood Website:

www.cde.state.co.us/earlychildhoodconnections

In summary, the addition of these 17 highly skilled and knowledgeable people increases and enhances the training and technical support opportunities offered by ECC. Taking advantage of these resources can assist communities in providing quality early intervention services to families and children.

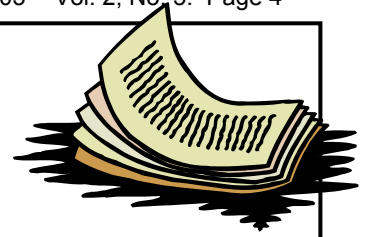
New!!

Robin McWilliam Teleconference Video

A video of Robin McWilliam's August, 2003 teleconference presentation is now available for check out to communities. Robin's six-hour presentation, originating in Denver and broadcast throughout Colorado, has been edited down to a two-hour video that focuses on his discussion of two topics, the transdisciplinary/primary service provider model and support-based home visiting.

To request a video contact Penny Dell at (303) 866-6848 or dell_p@cde.state.co.us

Research Brief



Rush, D. and Sheldon, M. (1996). On becoming a team: A view from the field. *Seminars in Speech and Language* 17 (2), 131-142.

Recommended practices on the delivery of early intervention supports and services have expanded the concept of the early intervention team. This has prompted attention from the various disciplines. This article was featured in a speech-language journal. Unlike traditional teams that grew out of the individual, direct service model of treatment, early intervention teams include the child's family along with professionals. The child is seen from a different perspective by each team participant. Different viewpoints are integrated and used to the benefit of the child. In this way, treatment options are expanded. As part of the process, some professionals may release their roles to other team members as well as learn new skills from other team members. In this article, the process of team development is illustrated through the experiences of one family-centered early intervention team. Effective family-centered teams function with good communication, trust, role clarity, and mechanisms for conflict management. Elements of effective team functioning include a clear reason for working together, an interdependence of members regarding experience and ability, commitment to the value of working together, accountability to a larger organization, and leadership that moves team toward its goals. Members of family-centered teams experience a sense of involvement, effective communication across disciplines, increased skill in own discipline and skill development within and across disciplines. These experiences contribute to an environment of positive team functioning.

Three factors that contribute to the effectiveness of positive team functioning are: 1) environmental (situational) characteristics, which include a strong theoretical base for the work, effective policies and procedures, appropriate tools and clear measurement and feedback on outcomes; 2) team (group) characteristics, which include common goals, open communication, clear roles, presence of consensus decision-making and conflict resolution strategies, balance of task and relationship factors, and effective leadership; and 3) individual member characteristics, which include expertise/competency, personality traits, interpersonal skills, attitudes, flexibility, compatible values, and commitment to the group process. Awareness of how individual differences effect team dynamics enable team members to develop an understanding of the similarities and differences among them which can be helpful for teambuilding. Since teamwork is a dynamic process, changes within the environment, such as change of system focus, or change in team member composition, and perhaps areas of expertise, or redefinition of roles, or increase or decrease in dimensions of trust, respect, and communication can impact the team at any point in time.

Service delivery models have changed along with the change in concepts about teams, and family participation. In some instances multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary teams became transdisciplinary teams in order to support transfer of knowledge, or skills across disciplinary boundaries. Transdisciplinary teams rely on a high degree of collaboration and joint decision-making for conducting assessments, establishing priorities and implementing individualized family service plans. To illustrate the points made in the article, the authors report on the actual experience of a team as told by the members, reflecting on experiences developing their team. One message from their experience was that functioning as a high functioning, family-centered team is an evolutionary process that cannot be taken for granted. There needs to be ongoing attention directed toward developing solid relationships, preserving open communication, maintaining a common philosophy, technical expertise and current knowledge.

Editorial Comment: This article is valuable for providers and family members who are committed to developing and supporting transdisciplinary team practice. The story from the field should be read in its original form. The actual words describing the team's experience in creating team practice, and solving problems can inform new and experienced teams, especially those engaged in initial or continuous development. A must read for all.

A potpourri of web sites of interest to families, practitioners, higher education faculty, administrators, and policy makers.

Children's Mental Health Resource Kit: Promoting Children's Mental Health Screens and Assessments

The Children's Defense Fund has produced a new resource kit on children's mental health screens and assessments. To read a description and summary of the resource kit go to:

<http://www.childrensdefense.org/pdf/men talhealthresourcekit/flier.pdf>

To download the full resource kit go to:

<http://www.childrensdefense.org/pdf/men talhealthresourcekit/full.pdf>

Early Childhood Curriculum, Assessment and Program Evaluation - New Position Statement

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the National Association of Early Childhood Specialists in State Departments of Education (NAECS/SDE) have approved a new position statement on *Early Childhood Curriculum, Assessment and Program Evaluation*. For more information go to:

<http://www.naeyc.org/resources/position statements/pscape.asp>

To read the full position statement go to

<http://www.naeyc.org/resources/position statements/pscape.pdf>

The Future of Children

The primary purpose of *The Future of Children* is to promote effective policies and programs for children by providing policymakers, service providers, and the media with timely, objective information based on the best available research.

The Future of Children is a publication of the [Children, Families, and Communities Program](#) of [The David and Lucile Packard Foundation](#). To subscribe, visit:

<http://www.futureofchildren.org/feedback2833/feedback.htm>

Reaching the Children: The Relationship Between Title V and Part C

Through Title V of the Social Security Act states address the health care needs of women, children and youth, including those with special health care needs. Through Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), states identify developmental delays in children age zero to three and coordinate early intervention programs. This issue brief from the Association of Maternal and Child

Health Programs examines Title V and Part C partnerships in 20 states, highlights models of collaboration, documents barriers to collaboration and provides recommendations to

Congress and the federal government to support this collaboration. To access the full text online go to

<http://www.amchp1.org/policy/RTC.pdf>.

Using Data

Increasingly, educators are finding new uses of data to guide decision making for students with disabilities. This Research Connections takes a look at several Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) supported research projects that are finding new and enhanced uses of data to produce better results. Go to

<http://ericec.org/osep/recon13/rc13cov.html>

Leaving Too Many Children Behind

A Demographer's View on the Neglect of America's Youngest Children

<http://www.iel.org/manychildren.pdf><http://www.iel.org/manychildren.pdf>



Follow-Up Resources on the Web

Celebrating Progress:

Applying What We Know about Effective Early Intervention

For Follow-up Resources to Colorado's 12th Annual Early Childhood Institute that was held on October 23 - 24, 2003 in Vail, Colorado Visit:

<http://eccevents.spindustry.com/asp/EventsPlus/events.asp?e=22>

Upcoming Events

Annual Conference on School Reform and Inclusive Education

January 22-24, 2004, All Day (Denver).

For information, visit: <http://www.peakparent.org/conferences.asp>

Increasing Health and Safety in Child Care

February 11, 2004 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Live in Denver, teleconferenced to Alamosa, Clifton, Cortez, Greeley, Montrose, Pueblo, Sterling. For more information, visit: <http://www.ifkpartners.org/Workshops.asp>

Kicked Out of Preschool: Disruptive Behavior Disorders in Early Childhood

March 26, 2004 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Live in Denver, teleconferenced to Alamosa, Clifton, Cortez, Greeley, Montrose, Pueblo, Sterling. For more information, visit: <http://www.ifkpartners.org/Workshops.asp>

Serious behavior problems in younger children are increasingly being reported by researchers and clinicians. Participants in this interactive videoconference will discuss the scope of the problem, including discussion of diagnostic entities, exploration of possible etiologies for the apparent increase in these disorders, and review of appropriate assessment strategies and treatment approaches for children in this age range.

Colorado IFSP Training

January 16 – Glenwood Springs/February 24 – Denver/February 26 – Jefferson County/February 27 – Alamosa/ May 4, 2004 –Denver

This one day interactive training event consists of 3 modules that focus on IFSP development. Each training session will be limited to 30 participants. The targeted audience is IFSP teams consisting of Service Coordinators, parents, Child Find personnel, and service providers. Register at: <http://eccevents.spindustry.com/asp/EventsPlus/events.asp?e=16>
Or contact Penny Dell at 303-866-6848 or dell_p@cde.state.co.us

Service Coordination Core Training

February 11 & 12 and March 10 & 11, 2004 in Denver.

A free intensive four-day course for anyone wanting to build their skills as a service coordinator and for those wanting to help others become highly effective service coordinators. Intended for service coordinators, family members, community centered board personnel, public health personnel, home visitors, and child find personnel. For information & registration: <http://eccevents.spindustry.com/asp/EventsPlus/events.asp?e=8>

Early Childhood Activities Calendar

Remember to periodically check out this useful source of information on training opportunities and other events:

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

Subscription Information

To receive a FREE monthly *electronic* subscription to Resources and Connections go to <http://www.cde.state.co.us/earlychildhoodconnections/Technical.htm> or contact your local Early Childhood Connections at 1-888-777-4041.

Contact Us... *Resources and Connections* is published by Early Childhood Connections at the Colorado Department of Education and JFK Partners, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. We invite you to contact the editors with your questions and suggestions.

Please pass along copies of Resources and Connections to your colleagues and friends.

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Happy Holidays!