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Spring 2020 Newsletter

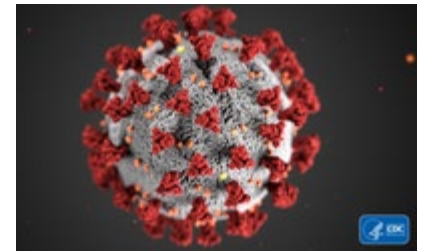


Early Intervention Training Program Newsletter, Spring 2020

News and Updates

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information and Resources

The worldwide COVID-19 outbreak continues to spread, as well as the uncertainty and uneasiness that come with such rapidly changing circumstances and limited information. To help protect yourself and support your important work with children and families in Illinois, EITP has pulled together information and resources about COVID-19, which is also known as "Coronavirus", as well as including links to DHS memos, FAQs, and updates. You can also find new resources to support you (self-care), your work, and the families you serve. See our [COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\) Information and Resources](#) page.



COVID-19 illustration from CDC

Please note this page is updated regularly with Illinois Early Intervention system updates and resources. **We encourage bookmarking this page and checking it regularly.**

Live Video Visits (i.e. Teletherapy) in Early Intervention

Because of the Illinois state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Illinois Early Intervention (EI) Program instituted the use of Live Video Visits, or teletherapy, as a temporary measure to comply with the services mutually agreed upon and deemed necessary under the current Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSP) developed for any Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C eligible child and the child's family. To learn more, please review the following IDHS documents:

- [Frequently Asked Questions and Answers - Early Intervention COVID-19 Live Video Visits \(Teletherapy\) - 04/10/20 \(revised 04/13/20\)](#)
- [Guidance for the Illinois Part C Early Intervention Live Video Visits \(i.e. EI Teletherapy\) during COVID-19 Pandemic - 04/06/20](#)

To support your work, the following items are now available through our [COVID-19 resources page](#):

- **New EITP Online Training: Using Live Video Visits in EI (During COVID-19)**
- [Live Video Visits \(Telehealth\) Resource page](#)
 - [Resources for Live Video Videos in Early Intervention \(pdf\)](#) from EITP
 - [Resources on Telehealth](#) from FIPP (great infographics that align with our training!)
 - [Family Informed Decisions - Service Coordinator Talking Points \(pdf\)](#) from EITP
 - [Family Tip Sheets on Telehealth](#) from Illinois EI Clearinghouse
 - **Planning for Telehealth Live Video Visits:**
 - [Joint Planning Document for Preparation for Live Video EI Visits \(pdf\)](#) from EITP
 - [Family Technology Checklist for Live Video EI Visits \(pdf\)](#) from EITP
 - [Professional Technology Checklist for Live Video EI Visits \(pdf\)](#) from EITP
 - [Planning for the Use of Video Conferencing for Early Intervention Home Visits during the COVID-19 Pandemic \(pdf\)](#) from ECTA Center

What remains constant during these ever-changing, uncertain times is that together we are stronger! EITP along with the other EI partners are working hard to continually develop additional events and materials to support your awareness, education and practice during the COVID-19 pandemic. **Please bookmark or check our websites often for updates.**

Get to Know the DEC Recommended Practices

Family and Professional Collaboration

Engaging families in early intervention and developing family-professional partnerships is critical for success. Therefore we are continuing [our newsletter series](#) with a focus on [Division for Early Childhood Recommended Practices \(DEC RPs\) Family Practices](#).

This article will spotlight the 4 remaining Family Practices related to **Family and Professional Collaboration**, which emphasize the importance of building relationships and working together to achieve mutually agreed-upon outcomes and goals that promote family competencies and support the child's development.

What are the Practices that build Family and Professional Collaboration?

F7. *Practitioners work with the family to identify, access, and use formal and informal resources and supports to achieve family-identified outcomes or goals.*

F8. *Practitioners provide the family of a young child who has or is at risk for developmental delay/disability, and who is a dual language learner, with information about the benefits of learning in multiple languages for the child's growth and development.*






F9. *Practitioners help families know and understand their rights.*

F10. *Practitioners inform families about leadership and advocacy skill-building opportunities and encourage those who are interested to participate.*

Download a table (pdf) of what the practices look like and don't look like.

Tip: Use the examples above or [additional examples of DEC RPs](#) to reflect on your own practices.

Explore the following activities to extend your learning!

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Read</p>  | <p>Encouraging Bilingual Babies and Toddlers (tipsheet) - Español version available too!</p> |
| <p>Watch</p>  | <p>A Practitioner and Parent Work Together to Encourage Bilingualism</p> |
| <p>Try</p>  | <p>Reflecting on your practices that promote family and professional collaborations (Word doc)</p> |
| <p>Share</p>  | <p>Understanding Procedural Safeguards: Examples of Explanations and Implications for Families (2012): Updated and excerpted from <i>Assuring the Family's Role on the Early Intervention Team: Explaining Rights and Safeguards</i> (2002)</p> |
| <p>Use</p>  | <p>Family Practices during Transition (pdf)</p> |

Where can I learn more?

Be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#) if you want to receive additional resources, encouragement, and opportunities to engage with others on the DEC RPs throughout the year! You can also [visit the DEC RPs website](#) which has numerous resources connected to the RPs, including examples of what they look like in practice. Additional resources can also be found by visiting the [ECTA Center's Practice Improvement Tools](#): Using the DEC Recommended Practice, especially the Family topic and tools.

Resources You Can Use

Resources on Specific Disabilities and Developmental Delays

The [Early Intervention Clearinghouse](#) has information for providers and families looking for resources for on specific disabilities and developmental delays!



Check out their [Specific Disabilities and Developmental Delays](#) resource page. Also available in [Spanish](#).

This page covers a wide range of topics such as ADHD, autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, intellectual disability, traumatic brain injury, and many more.

Engaging Families in Family Guided Routines Based Intervention (FGRBI)

Coaching families in the child's natural environment promotes interventions and parent-child interactions that support the child's development in everyday routines, activities and places where the family participates.



This [tip sheet](#) provides tips to guide the FGRBI process and make it just right for each child and family situation.

Information about Public Charge

You may have heard about or received questions about "Public Charge" from clients who may have concerns or questions regarding how Part C Early Intervention is counted as far as benefits.

Although there is a lot of information regarding Public Charge, nothing explicitly states how the EI Program fits. To read more on Public Charge, there is a [fact sheet from USCIS](#), which lists the programs NOT counted towards public charge, which we have pulled from this article for your review.

Please note: References to DHS are for the Department of Homeland Security, NOT the Department of Human Services.

Free YEC Journal Article

Coaching to Build Parent Competency in Early Challenging Behaviors

In each Newsletter, EITP highlights a free article focused on Early Intervention that will be available for PDF download from the Young Exceptional Children journal!



Most Illinois families are staying indoors right now! Therefore, we are featuring "[Coaching to Build Parent Competency in Addressing Early Challenging Behaviors](#)" by An, Horn and

Cheatham to help support providers in Illinois Early Intervention.

Excerpt: The purpose of this article is to discuss how a parent coaching framework with the support of several critical components can be applied to build parent competency as a way to address children's challenging behaviors. Collaborative parent-professional partnerships are the underlying theme embedded in the three-cyclical coaching components.

Service Coordinator Corner

The role of the Service Coordinator is critical in EI. There are many Illinois and national initiatives underway. Here are some great resources you can use in your work:

The Current State of Service Coordination across the Country: This archived webinar from December 17, 2019, provides an overview of the national status of service coordination under Part C of IDEA for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. The presenters describe three data sets collected to measure aspects of service coordination and discuss the challenges facing service coordinators and families as reported in the data and provided [associated references and resources \(pdf\)](#) related to the webinar.

Coaching Families through Early Intervention: Coaching is "an adult learning strategy in which the coach promotes the learner's (coachee's) ability to reflect on his or her actions as a means to determine the effectiveness of an action or practice and develop a plan for refinement and use of the action in immediate and future situations." (Rush & Shelden, 2011, p. 8). This resource includes the various aspects of a family's journey through early intervention and strategies service coordinators may consider as they plan "with" the family, rather than "for" the family.

Illinois Service Coordinator (IL SC) Forum: The CFC SC Trainer Forum and IL SC Community of Practice (CoP) have merged meetings. Current SCs in Illinois, and those who prepare them, can visit the [online workspace](#) to learn more about this community.

SSIP Updates

State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) Second Quarter Update

We continue to be excited by the positive changes occurring in our pilot areas. The focus continues to be on our family engagement improvement strategy. Leadership teams continue to plan and support professional development offerings on family engagement practices in their area. Offerings differ based on local needs. We are continuing our work on the development and refinement of a practice fidelity tool with our national technical assistance partners. We are getting ready to turn our attention to the plan that needs to be submitted to the Office of Special Education Programs in April. We know that this submission needs to include our plans for scale up and sustainability. We are excited by the prospect of spreading the good work that is already underway! We benefit from stakeholder input so if you have any comments, please [email Chelsea Guillen](#).

Upcoming Events



In line with University and IDHS Early Intervention guidelines regarding COVID-19, EITP will not be hosting face-to-face events through May 5, 2020. EITP is continually monitoring the guidance and will keep registrants updated if this date changes. If you had already registered for events taking place before May 5th, EITP will in touch with you with follow-up information.

To view online trainings sponsored by EITP, please visit [EITP Online Events page](#).

To learn more about videos approved for EI credit, please visit our [Video Credit Requests page](#).

To view upcoming events sponsored by other entities (non-EITP events) that are eligible for EI credit, please visit the [Non-EITP Events Calendar](#).

| Date | Event and Registration Link | Location |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 5/4/20 | Virtual Hawaii Early Learning Profile (HELP) Overview *Global Assessment Training* | Online - Live through Zoom |
| 5/5/20 | EITP Virtual Office Hours - intended for new EI personnel | Online - Live through Zoom |
| 5/14/20 | Online System Overview Follow-Up Session *Please note this is a 2-part session with prerequisites* | Online - Live in Zoom |
| 5/20/20 | Online System Overview Follow-Up Session *Please note this is a 2-part session with prerequisites* | Online - Live in Zoom |
| 5/21/20 |  The Hawaii Early Learning Profile (HELP) Overview*Global Assessment Training* *Please note this is a 2-part session with prerequisites* | Online - Live in Zoom |
| 6/2/20 | EITP Virtual Office Hours - intended for new EI personnel | Online - Live through Zoom |
| 6/4/20 | Online System Overview Follow-Up Session | Effingham |
| 6/5/20 |  The Hawaii Early Learning Profile (HELP) Overview *Global Assessment Training* | Effingham |
| 6/11/20 | The Growing Brain: The Basics and Factors Affecting Brain Growth and Development | Palos Hills |
| 6/16/20 |  Creating Space: Arranging Environments to Promote Positive Behavior | Online - Live webinar through MFLN |
| 6/19/20 | The Growing Brain: Understanding Behavior | Naperville |
| 6/19/20 & | When I See Something, Should I Say Something? Exploring Ethical | Champaign |

6/26/20

Considerations in Early Intervention***Both days required***



indicates events that are approved by Gateways (the Illinois professional development system for child care professionals).

*For all multiple day events, participants must register before Day 1 and attend all days. Registration will be closed after Day 1 of that event. To register for the event, click on the full title of the event.

READ MORE ABOUT



Central Billing Office | Monitoring | EI Central Directory

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