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EITP

EARLY INTERVENTION
TRAINING PROGRAM

Summer 2020 Newsletter



Early Intervention Training Program Newsletter, Summer 2020


News and Updates

Share Your Opinion on the Needs Assessment by July 1

EITP and the Bureau of Early Intervention are conducting a survey to determine the professional development needs of early interventionists and those supporting families and young children in Illinois! Your opinion really matters to us!



[Take the Survey](#)


 Please fill out this **anonymous survey** (no name collected) that will only take about 7-9 minutes by **July 1, 2020**. We appreciate your time and thank you for sharing your thoughts!

2020 CFC Award Winners


Congratulations to the 10 outstanding CFC professionals who were nominated by their peers and selected to receive CFC awards across five categories. The recipients were announced and celebrated during the virtual CFC mini-conferences held in April. These individuals were recognized for their service, contributions, resourcefulness, and collaborative spirit. We are thrilled to announce the following CFC award recipients:

Troubleshooter Award

MacKenzie Furlong, CFC 11


 MacKenzie's colleagues can always count on her, even in difficult situations. She always helps solve problems and is quick on her feet with practical solutions.

Jamia Joyce, CFC 20

 Jamia is a valued, dependable team member who has adapted to several changes within EI and at the CFC over the last 20 years. She exhibits strength in her ability to troubleshoot on a regular basis and is always willing to train new co-workers.

Encouraging Word

Kim English, CFC 10

 Kim encourages parents through their journey in EI. She speaks positively with parents and affirms their efforts and feelings.

Liane Baker-Hergenrother,

Liane loves families and is always positive and compassionate when interacting

CFC 18

with them and talking about them. In addition to caring for families, she is invested in the health and happiness of other EI team members and providers.

Rising Star Award**Kira McConnaughey, CFC 1**

In the short time Kira has worked at the CFC, she has demonstrated her ability to understand EI and its principles, and has proven that she is a dynamic service coordinator, who is supportive of the families she serves.

Jordan Gill, CFC 17

Jordan is a remarkable asset to her CFC, as she efficiently completes her job without compromising the quality of her work. And, she is always willing to help the families with whom she partners.

Backstage Gem Award**Cendy Alvarez-Gutierrez, CFC 7**

Cendy plays many roles at her CFC. She is the unofficial "tech" support, data consultant, and party planner in addition to lead Service Coordinator. She is an amazing co-worker, advocate and friend to many, and always stops what she is doing to help others.

Charity Heifner, CFC 23

Charity always goes the extra mile to make sure the CFC runs smoothly. She puts her whole heart into her CFC staff and they, in return, are grateful for her and her efforts.

Collaborator Award**Shelly McElroy, CFC 9**

Shelly has been a service coordinator and, more recently, a parent liaison for the past 19 years. She goes above and beyond to make families feel comfortable, heard, and respected. She is always positive and tries to make a difference in the lives of the families.

Carla Reid, CFC 21

Carla is a friend to everyone she meets. She values each person's opinion and is a wonderful listener. Even in difficult situations, she always finds the right words to say.

Get to Know the DEC Recommended Practices

Family Practices Review

The **Division for Early Childhood (DEC)** of the **Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)** is a well-established professional organization for many early interventionists and early childhood special educators. For many years, DEC has produced **Recommended Practices (RPs)** to guide the work of administrators, practitioners, and service coordinators serving young children with, or at risk for, delays and disabilities and their families.

Our last newsletter concluded a series, *Get to Know the DEC Recommended Practices*, which included examples of what the practices "look like/doesn't look like" for the Family Practices. Additionally, the series shared activities to **read, watch, try, share, and use**.

We chose the **Family Practices** because they are foundational components for all our work with families participating in early intervention and are closely aligned with our **State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)**.

Did you find the resources shared helpful? If so, follow us on **Facebook** and **Twitter** to find even more

resources related to Early Intervention. If you missed the series or would like to circle back to it as you work to improve your practice, we invite you to visit our [DEC RP series](#) page and explore resources the [ECTA Center's Practice Improvement Tools: Using the DEC Recommended Practices](#).

Resources You Can Use

New EITP Online Training "Your Guide to Tummy Time"

EITP has launched a new, self-paced online training, [Your Guide to Tummy Time](#). This training is offered through a collaboration with [Pathways.org](#) and presents information about child development milestones and the importance of tummy time through the following:



- Tummy Time facts and videos that help baby meet milestones
- Fun and easy tips and games to do and share with families
- Tummy Time abilities by age (weeks to months)
- Ideas to help baby strengthen core muscles and make Tummy Time easier

You must register and take this training through EITP for EI credit. Visit our [EITP Online Events calendar](#) to learn more about this and online offerings.

Reminder: Information and Resources related to COVID-19

EITP has pulled together information and resources about COVID-19, 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 or our [Live Video Visits \(Telehealth\) Resources](#) page.



Recently Added Resources:

- [Interim IFSPs](#) (pdf)
- [Guidance for Medical/Clinic Based Services Requiring Face-to-Face](#) – N06/08/20
- [Early Intervention Phased Re-Open Plan](#) – 05/26/20
- [Early Intervention Evaluation Process using Live Video Visits](#) – N05/26/20
- [Routines Based Interview \(RBI\) Key Steps during Telehealth](#) (pdf)
- [RBI Reminders for Telehealth](#) (pdf)

Service Coordinator Corner

The role of the Service Coordinator is critical in EI. There are many Illinois and national initiatives underway. Here are updates and resources related to your work:

Special thanks to Alanda Lockhart and Lovice Brinkman for co-leading an interactive discussion during the Illinois Service Coordination Forum in May 2020.

State and National Initiatives

- **In April, EITP hosted 2 statewide service coordination events** to review newly developed resources and identify strengths and challenges as they lead families and teams through COVID-19. Key themes emerged that were shared at regional CFC support meetings.
- **In May, EITP held 4 regional CFC support meetings** and the groups will meet again in June to plan and prepare for future collaborative activities supporting service coordinators, providers and families within each region.
- **Draft Recommended Knowledge & Skills for Service Coordinators (RKSSC)** - DEC in collaboration with the National Service Coordination Leadership Institute Group asked for input on the draft RKSSC in April 2020 and over 1,000 participants from 46 states responded! Results are being analyzed and will be shared with the field shortly as the RKSSC is expected to be a component of the newly drafted [DEC/ITCA Joint Position Statement on Service Coordination](#).

New Resources

- [Family Informed Decisions - Service Coordinator Talking Points](#) (pdf)
- [Interim IFSPs](#) (pdf)
- [Routines Based Interview \(RBI\) Key Steps during Telehealth](#) (pdf)
- [RBI Reminders for Telehealth](#) (pdf)

Join the Conversation!

Register for the [Illinois Service Coordinator \(IL SC\) Forum](#) to join our next meeting on Wednesday, August 12, 2020 from 10-11am (central)! Current SCs in Illinois, and those who prepare them, can visit the [online workspace](#) or [contact Sarah Nichols](#) to learn more about this community.

State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) Update

Though many circumstances have recently changed, we are still seeing positive changes occurring in our pilot areas. The focus continues to be on family engagement. Though mechanisms for providing services have changed, coaching and support are still critical. Leadership teams continue to plan for future professional development offerings on family engagement practices in their area. Offerings differ based on local needs, but teams have been offering support opportunities via technology to their provider communities. We are continuing our work on the development and refinement of a practice fidelity tool with our national technical assistance partners. We recently sent a survey to our large stakeholder group to further this work. We are awaiting the Office of Special Education Program's feedback on the plan we submitted. We continue to 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 July 31, 2020. EITP is continually monitoring the guidance, is preparing for an eventual return to some in-person opportunities, and will keep registrants updated as new information becomes available.

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
6/30/20	Calm in the Chaos of COVID-19: Helping the Helpers	Online - Live via Zoom
7/7/20	Virtual Office Hours - intended for new EI personnel	Online - Live via Zoom
9/29/20	 Let's Work Together: Building Relationships with Families to Support Positive Behavior	Online - Live via MFLN
12/1/20	 Make New Friends: Promoting Friendship and Belonging	Online - Live via MFLN



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



ILLINOIS





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