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# Winter 2020 Newsletter



## Early Intervention Training Program Newsletter, Winter 2020

### News and Updates

#### EITP Office Closed for the Holidays

- The [EITP offices](#) will be closed on Thursday, December 24, 2020 to Sunday, January 3, 2021.
- EITP will not be able to provide technical support for online training modules during the closure. Please plan accordingly.
- We will resume normal office hours on Monday, January 4, 2021.
- We hope you all have a great holiday season!



#### EITP Online Training Updates

In response to popular browsers and operating systems ending support of Adobe Flash on 12/31/20, EITP has begun the process of removing Flash from our [asynchronous online trainings in Moodle](#).

Here is what you can expect after the first of the year:

- **Different appearance**
- **Easier to use interface**
- **Accessible on any browser** (now use whatever you're used to!)
- **Works with mobile devices** (tablet, cell phone) in addition to laptops/computers!



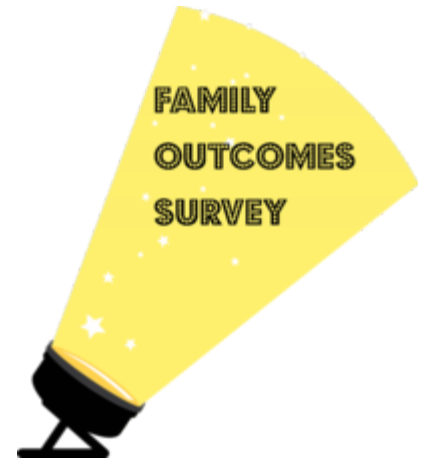
**Moodle updates are happening in the "off hours"** (weekends, early morning or late evening) to avoid issues for users currently enrolled. Additionally, the Service Coordination Online training will have a blackout date posted on the course.

To preview the changes, visit our newly developed [Accessing EITP Online Moodle Trainings](#), a 2-minute interactive presentation for new users to view in order to know the tips, links, and requirements for accessing EITP

trainings in our learning management system, Moodle. (This resource is found on our [EITP Online Events page](#) and [Moodle Support and Help page](#).)

## What's New with the Family Outcomes Survey!

*Improving outcomes for children and families* is the central focus of the Illinois Early Intervention Program (EI). To evaluate the effectiveness of EI in achieving family outcomes, all families receive a “Family Outcomes Survey”, with questions focused on understanding children’s strengths, abilities, and needs and EI’s ability to help them develop and learn. Beginning September 2020, all families who exit the system will receive the invitation to complete the survey via text message!



- Check out the [survey questions for families](#) (pdf)
- Review the [Family Outcomes Survey Infographic](#) (pdf)
- Ensure that the Service Coordinator has the most current family phone number
- Encourage the families to complete the survey, and provide their feedback

## Resources You Can Use

### Finding Gratitude for Live Video Visits

In 2020, we've all had to adjust the way we work, which is never easy. With grace, compassion, and innovation, you've been able to grow from this unforeseen opportunity and continue to partner with families in EI to meet their varied needs.



In the spirit of gratitude as we end this unusual year, there is another opportunity to appreciate how far we've come. [Tele-Intervention Has Made Me Thankful For](#) (or live video visits as we call it in Illinois) illustrates some reasons to be thankful for the new ways we are connecting with families. Consider reflecting with your peers, families, and other team members on what you all are thankful for since implementing the use of Live Video Visits to connect with one another.

### New MFLN Training on Advocacy

The [MFLN EI team](#) launched their second asynchronous learning module, [Field Guide to Family Advocacy: Knowledge, Resources, and Supports for Military Families of Children with Disabilities](#).



The four-part interactive course focuses on the rights of young children with disabilities in military families, eligibility for special education programs and service for children with disabilities available within military systems, and strategies to support military families as they navigate these systems in military contexts. (Civilian contexts are also shared.) Upon completion of all requirements, you will earn 4.5 EI credit hours!

## Technology Support Available for Families in Early Intervention



The [Illinois Early Intervention Clearinghouse](#) is pleased to be helping families receive early intervention services during the pandemic by loaning technology to help families participate in live video visits or telehealth. **Available technology includes:**

- iPad with a data plan (i.e., you are requesting a device for live video visits that also has an Internet plan)
- iPad without a data plan (i.e., you are requesting a device for live video visits; you already have Internet access)
- Hotspot (i.e., you have a device for live video visits but require Internet access)
- Quantities are limited. As items become available we will reach out and contact the next name on the waiting list.

To apply to receive the technology, families can complete the [Device Loan Request Form](#).

## Attend the DEC Conference from home!

The [Division of Early Childhood \(DEC\) 36th Annual Conference](#) is going virtual! No travel required to attend this international conference!



**A variety of discounts are available depending on your role.** For example, practitioners and service coordinators are eligible for a 50% discount!

[Pre-conference events](#) will be held on January 21-22, 2021. **The conference will be on January 25-29, 2021 and offers 130+ sessions** to provide the latest research, evidence based practices, and "just in time" advice for working with young children with disabilities, their families, and the professionals who serve them. To view schedule, register for events, or learn more, visit the [DEC Conference](#) site.

## 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:*

### Illinois Service Coordination Initiatives

- **Statewide and Regional Activities** - EITP continues to participate in monthly Regional CFC Support Meetings which have led to new ideas, shared resources, cross-regional collaboration, and development of new tools and resources.
- **IL SC Forum** - Special thanks to our IL SC Forum Leaders for planning and to **Alanda Lockhart and Shameka Brown** for co-leading our November discussion titled "*The Art of Discussion - Engaging Families in Crisis.*" Quarterly meetings for 2021 begin on February 10 and service coordinators (and those who prepare/support them at the local level) are welcome to join our community.
- **IL SC Stakeholder Summary Report** - EITP will be presenting our findings from this study with **Jennifer**

Litchfield, an IL SC Stakeholder Group Member, at the DEC Virtual Conference in January 2021.

## National SC Initiatives

- **Knowledge & Skills for Service Coordinators (KSSC):** The Division for Early Childhood Service Coordination Community of Practice (DEC SC CoP) hosted a web discussion in December titled "*The Foundation for Excellence - Understanding the Knowledge and Skills for Service Coordinators (KSSC)*." The archived recording and associated resources shared during the event (including a KSSC Self-Assessment tool) can be found on the DEC SC CoP website.
- **Division for Early Childhood (DEC) and Infant Toddler Coordinator Association (ITCA) Joint Service Coordination Position Statement** has been released! To stay connected and informed on new and existing service coordination initiatives, including future web-conversations to discuss the Joint SC Position Statement, be sure to join the DEC SC CoP!

## Join the Conversation!

Register for the **Illinois Service Coordinator (IL SC) Forum** to join our next meeting on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 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

During these uncertain times, the support being provided by our system is more important than ever. The Leadership Teams have been working to provide support to those who are directly interacting with families, providing opportunities for knowledge and skill growth while also creating a safe place for reflecting on challenges. While the focus of the SSIP continues to be on family engagement, many of the planned activities have changed.

In addition to the Leadership Team activities, we have continued to refine a practice fidelity tool. We recently solicited input from our performance support workgroup to determine its appropriateness and outline some of its potential uses. We will be sharing information about the tool with the evaluation subgroup in the near future. We will also likely be reconvening our large stakeholder group when we know more about the future of the SSIP and the direction that Illinois wants to take. In addition, plans for scale up will also need defining. As always, stakeholder input is welcome, if you have comments/concerns please [email Chelsea Guillen](#).

## Upcoming Events

EITP will not be hosting face-to-face events until further notice, which is in line with [University](#) and [IDHS Early Intervention guidelines regarding COVID-19](#). **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 that are eligible for EI credit from other entities (non-EITP events), please visit the [Non-EITP Events Calendar](#).

Date	Event and Registration Link	Location
12/17/20	<a href="#">Virtual Online System Overview One Day Follow-Up</a>	Online - Zoom
1/5/21	<a href="#">New to EI Forum</a> - A monthly online meeting with the EI partners for new providers in their initial 18 months in Early Intervention	Online - Zoom
1/19/21	<b>Coaching Webinar Series: Joint Planning for a Family-Centered Approach</b>	Online - Zoom
1/20/21	<a href="#">Virtual Online System Overview One Day Follow-Up</a>	Online - Zoom
2/1/21	<a href="#">Transition from Early Intervention to Early Childhood Services: Roles and Responsibilities (Webinar and Assignment)</a>	Online - StarNet
2/2/21	<a href="#">New to EI Forum</a> - A monthly online meeting with the EI partners for new providers in their initial 18 months in Early Intervention	Online - Zoom
2/5/21	<b>The Four A's of Navigating Uncertainty Series: Part 1: An Introduction</b> - <i>This is REQUIRED if you plan to take Part 2 and/or Part 3.</i>	Online - Zoom
2/10/21	<b>Coaching Webinar Series: Strengthening Caregiver Capacity through Reflective Conversations &amp; Feedback</b>	Online - Zoom
2/12/21	<b>The Four A's of Navigating Uncertainty Series: Part 2: Starting With Self</b> - <i>You must take Part 1 to attend this event! Registration is separate for each part of series.</i>	Online - Zoom
2/17/21	<a href="#">Virtual Online System Overview One Day Follow-Up</a>	Online - Zoom
2/19/21	<b>The Four A's of Navigating Uncertainty Series: Part 3: Supporting Caregivers</b> - <i>Must take Part 1 to attend this event! Registration is separate for each part of series.</i>	Online - Zoom
3/2/21	<a href="#">New to EI Forum</a> - A monthly online meeting with the EI partners for new providers in their initial 18 months in Early Intervention	Online - Zoom
3/4/21	<b>Coaching Webinar Series: Navigating What to Do after Joint Planning</b>	Online - Zoom
3/12/21	<a href="#">Virtual Online System Overview One Day Follow-Up</a>	Online - Zoom
3/19/21	<a href="#">Transition from Early Intervention to Early Childhood Services: Roles and Responsibilities (Webinar and Assignment)</a>	Online - Zoom

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## Central Billing Office | Monitoring | EI Central Directory

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