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## Spring is finally here!

After a very long winter, EITP wishes you a very happy spring! For this spring newsletter EITP would like to update you on the most recent happenings. Like many of you, EITP has a "to-do" list. Here is a glimpse of our upcoming and completed "to-dos."

### ✓ **Host the Empowering Professionals Conference | Complete!**

The Empowering Professionals Conference was held on March 7, 2014 at the Ray and Joan Kroc Salvation Army Corps Community Center. This one day event featured a keynote presentation by Dr. Michael Nelson, the Director of the Section of Pediatric Psychology at Rush Children's Hospital in Chicago and an Associate Professor of Psychology and Pediatrics at Rush-Presbyterian St. Luke's Medical Center. During his keynote presentation Dr. Nelson explored the essential characteristics of neurodevelopmental stages of development, described developmental deviations at each stage, and offered intervention strategies, built upon the strengths that exist within each child. The relative contributions of parents and early interventionists to neurodevelopment were also discussed.

### ✓ **Host a Child and Family Connections Conference (North) | Complete!**

The Child and Family Connections Conference (north) was held on March 31, 2014 at Moraine Valley. This one day event offered two keynote presentations and various breakout sessions related to CFC Service Coordination.

### ✓ **Provide on-going training opportunities for EI providers | Complete!**

This past quarter we provided many face-to-face and online trainings on a variety of topics across

the state of Illinois. Please check out [upcoming training calendar](#) to find an session that meets your professional development needs!

## ✓ Provide resources and networking opportunities on Facebook | Complete!

[Join our Facebook page](#) to learn about helpful resources and share tips with other providers and soon-to-be providers. This is also a wonderful place to ask questions and have your questions answered by colleagues and professionals in the field. Encourage other EI providers you know to join the group too, the more the merrier!

## ■ ✓ Host a Child and Family Connections Conference (South) | Completed

The Child and Family Connections Conference (South) was held in Carterville, Illinois on April 28. This one day event offered two keynote presentations and various breakout sessions related to CFC Service Coordination.

## ■ Create a video explaining EI services for families and child care providers | Still working!

EITP is creating two short videos about what EI services are, how they are EI services are provided, and who can receive EI services. These videos are intended to be shared with parents and child care providers across the state of Illinois. We are in the early stages of filming the videos and eagerly anticipate their upcoming debut!

## The Family Outcomes Surveys are on their way!

Early intervention is a family-centered system of supports and services. Both children and families are considered to receive benefits from these supports and services. The family outcomes survey is one way we can learn whether or not families are getting what is intended from early intervention services. Family outcomes are defined as the changes experienced by the family as a result of early intervention services and supports. Researchers at the ECO Center constructed the Family Outcomes Survey. They use the information received from providers and families in Illinois to determine the best way to deliver the survey to families. This survey asks families to think about things like understanding your child's strengths, abilities, and special needs and helping your child develop and learn. Family outcomes surveys have been sent to a portion of the families in the early intervention system each year. Last year, nearly 3,400 of the 19,000 surveyed early intervention families returned the surveys that were sent directly to their homes.

To help improve return rates, [providers should let families know that the surveys are being mailed out to their homes and encourage families to complete and return the surveys](#). By continuing to expand the number of families receiving the survey and by improving return rates, we should soon be able to describe the benefits of early intervention for both children and their families.

## EI Training FY15 Needs Assessment

The Illinois Early Intervention Training Program is releasing the Needs Assessment Survey for

the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year. This survey will help to guide in developing the types of professional development, trainings, and events which will be offered in the coming year 2014-2015. [Click here to share your input on the Needs Assessment Survey!](#)

## EITP Collaborates with Doctoral Student to win A Doris Duke Fellowship for the Promotion of Child Well-Being

Every year, the Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago awards 15 Doris Duke Promotion of Child Well-Being fellowships to doctoral students studying child well-being. These fellowships are designed to identify and develop a new generation of leaders interested in and capable of creating practice and policy initiatives that will enhance child development and improve the nation's ability to prevent all forms of child maltreatment. Fellows are guided by an academic mentor whom they select; fellows also identify a policy or practice mentor to assist them in better understanding how to frame their research questions with an eye toward maximizing policy and practice relevance.

Catherine Corr, in collaboration with Dr. Amy Santos (Academis mentor), Mr. Ted Burke (Policy Mentor), and the Early Intervention Training Program, was named a 2014-2015 recipient of a Doris Duke Fellowship. Catherine's work aims to identify the support needs of professionals who serve young children with disabilities who have experienced abuse and neglect. The ultimate goal is to bridge Illinois' Early Intervention and Child Protective Service Systems in order to provide more efficient and effective services for young children with disabilities.

[Click here to read more about Catherine's work.](#)

[Click here to read more about the Doris Duke Fellowship.](#)

## Upcoming Conferences

[Division for Early Childhood \(DEC\), St. Louis, Missouri.](#)

The DEC 2014 Conference Theme is Gateways to a Bright Future. The conference will be held in St. Louis Missouri from October 7-9. We hope that you will plan to attend this conference. There will be presentations about meaningful, effective and sustainable collaborations across research, policy and practice to increase learning opportunities for every child, family and community throughout everyday routines and interactions.

[American Speech and Hearing Association \(ASHA\), Orlando, Florida.](#)

The 2014 ASHA Convention will be held at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida, November 20–22, 2014. It is the premier annual professional education event for speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and speech, language, and hearing scientists. Bringing together more than 12,000 attendees, the Annual Convention provides unparalleled opportunities to hear the latest research and gain new skills and resources to advance your career.

## Submit a Proposal for ISHA Conference!

The Illinois Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ISHA) Call for Presentations are due **June 1**,

**2014.** This is a great opportunity to share your ideas and knowledge with other EI providers. ISHA along with the EI Committee encourage providers to submit proposals. With more EI providers presenting, not only is one contributing to the profession and helping to mentor other providers, but also ensuring more EI professional development and EI approved continuing education credit. ISHA is a great time to get CEUs for state licensure, ASHA and EI. Consider this opportunity! [Download the forms and instructions here!](#)

**Do you have something for us to add to our  
"to-do" list?**

**Do you have ideas for upcoming newsletter  
topics?**

**Please share them with us on [our Facebook  
page!](#)**

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