

Early Intervention Training News

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EI 2003 Training Program offers more options and new topics

The EI Training Program's agenda for 2003 includes more opportunities for EI providers to enhance their knowledge and skills as well as fulfill their credentialing requirements.

Ted Burke, EI training program director has announced that providers will be able to learn more about child development, syndromes, intervention practices and techniques, working with families, billing insurance and evaluation and assessment by watching videos selected by the EI training program. Individuals who view any of the videos and answer the short questionnaire included with each video will receive one hour credit toward their credentialing requirement.

A complete listing of the videos approved for EI credit is posted on the EI website at www.illinoiseittraining.org. Many of the videos were produced as part of STAR NET Regions I and III Apples Magazine, or are part of the video collection at the Early Childhood Clearing House. These videos can be watched over the internet through a

link on the EI website, or can be purchased for \$25. Providers can obtain copies of videos developed through the EI Training Program by contacting Ted Burke or Lucy Gimble at 866.509.3867, or by contacting their local Child and Family Connections Office. A directory of CFC offices is also available on the DHS website.

"In applying for the training grant UCP of Greater Chicago administrators stressed their ability to use UCP's extensive technology network to not only develop trainings, but also to make training opportunities from other agencies more accessible to EI providers," Burke said.

Burke added that the EI training program plans to produce videos on "Team Building, Consensus and the IFSP Process," "Effective Practices for Working with Children Who Have Autism," "Effective Practices for Working with Children Who Have Down Syndrome," "Effective Transition Practices," and "Positioning for Play," over the next several months.



Did you know?

Q. What do some 3,000 Early Intervention providers from across the state have in common?

A. They all attended trainings offered through the Illinois Early Intervention Training program between July 1, 2002 and Dec. 1, 2002.

During the first five months of the grant, 59 workshops have been offered throughout the state. This number includes: 16 Systems Overview, 4 Service Coordination, 23 Evaluation and Assessment, 2 Pediatric Based Learning, 1 Parent Liaison, in addition to trainings on a variety of EI-related topics such as Transition, Home Visiting, and Batelle Development Inventory. The training program also co-sponsored and/or provided EI credentialing hours for 74 additional training events held by other entities such as STAR NET, IMDN, area universities, and Hearing and Vision Connection



Program Director's Notes

By Ted Burke

We are looking forward to a busy and active year. As you can see by this issue of "EI Training News" our training calendar continues to change as we offer more of the required trainings and other related workshops on topics you have helped us identify. I can't stress enough how important it is for you to check our website

www.illinoiseitraining.org regularly. This is the best way to find timely information on trainings. By using the links to the Department of Human Services and Provider Connections websites you will be able to learn about any changes in the EI system or in the credentialing process.

Many of your questions over the past few months have focused on (1) How to become an evaluator in the EI system and (2) How to use specific testing instruments required to do evaluations and assessment. A provider who hopes to do initial evaluations for physical therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy or developmental therapy must attend the full Evaluation and Assessment training and submit a copy of his/her certificate of attendance along with a portfolio application to Provider Connections. The portfolio application is reviewed through Provider Connections and applicants are notified of the status of their credential. If your application is refused, you may resubmit after making the modifications requested.

The second question we often hear is "Where do I learn how to use the tests required for an evaluation or assessment?" Some of our EI providers took course work in college where they learned how to conduct evaluations and assessment with young children. If an EI provider never took classes on child development and testing, I strongly encourage that person to enroll in a course at their local college or university. It is also helpful for providers who need additional experience to seek out more experienced providers who can mentor them in evaluating and assessing young children.

The one-day workshops offered on assessment tools by various entities across the state are good overviews of specific tools, and should not be interpreted as a "crash course" in assessment that will teach someone everything they need to know to be able to appropriately assess young children.

In closing I would like to thank each of you for your commitment to serving the children and families of Illinois.

Autism Project for 0-5 children names pilot sites

The Autism Project funded through the Department of Human Services (DHS) and administrated by The Hope School in Springfield has identified pilot sites throughout the state that will offer trainings, diagnostic services and support to professionals working with young children with Autism Sepctgrum Disorders (ASD).

The Autism Project is a systems development initiative designed to provide didactic and experience-based training to enhance the early diagnosis and treatment of children ages 0-5 with ASD. Project administrators initially formed partnerships with the University of Chicago, Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry; Southern Illinois University Rehabilitation Institute in Carbondale, and Southern Illinois University School of Medicine.

Hope School is also identifying partners to set up pilot sites as follows:

Ada S. McKinley Community Services and the University of Chicago which will work with the Child and Family Connections (CFCs) for Southwest #8 (Easter Seals Society of Metro Chicago, Southeast #10 (LaRabida Children's Hospital) and South Suburban Cook Counties #12 (Suburban Access, Inc.)

Family Counseling Center and The Rehabilitation Institute at South Illinois University which will work with CFCs: Regional Office of Education, #13, Wabash & Ohio Valley Special Ed. #23, and Archway #24

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Provider Connections announces system for providers to monitor credential status

Provider Connections will launch a "Credential Lookup" system on its website, beginning Feb. 15, 2003 that will allow credentialed providers to view information related to their early intervention credential. The website address is

<http://www.wiu.edu.providerconnections>.

Information displayed will be updated weekly and will include the provider name, credential, credential status, begin/expiration dates, credential level, credential number, and county/city of residence. Those who access this system may search for individual providers or do bulk searches using any combination of the above displayed items.

As a result of offering this feature effective April 1, 2003 Provider Connections will no longer send out renewal postcards to credentialed providers.

Providers will be responsible for knowing their credential expiration date either by referring to their credential certificate or by the Credential Lookup system. Renewal applications will remain available on the Provider Connections website and should reach the Provider Connections office along with the required continued education documentation at least two weeks prior to the credential expirations.

**If you have questions,
call Provider Connections
at 800.701.0995**



UCP receives grant To train new Parent leaders

United Cerebral Palsy of Chicago has received a grant from the Illinois Planning Council to spearhead a program that will identify and support new parent leaders in the Early Intervention system. The goal of the project includes identifying, training and supporting 100 EI parent leaders who will then collaborate with EI administrators and providers to improve early intervention services for families who have children with special needs.

The goal of this project will be accomplished by providing opportunities for training, self analysis, reflection, problem solving and mentoring that support a transdisciplinary and family-centered process to advance positive developmental outcomes for infants and toddlers participating in EI services. Activities for the grant will be facilitated by 10 Regional Parent Facilitators who will participate in train the trainer modules and then train and support parent leaders in each of the regions they represent. The team of parent leaders will consists of parents who have children in EI services or whose child has exited the EI system within the previous six months.

A parent leadership website will be developed as part of this project to serve as a pivot point for parent leaders to network with each other across the state. Topic-based discussion opportunities via chat rooms, links and re-

sources to assist developing parent leaders, a consumer reports section for input and resources for other parents on topics such as equipment, insurance coverage, services, and toys will be offered through this website. Parent leaders also will participate in an annual Parent Leadership conference.

"UCP is pleased to be part of this innovative project," said Dr. Paul Dulle, UCP Executive Director. "Our experiences in working with families who have children with special needs, particularly those families whose children are in the birth-to-three range, has given us a framework for how a program such as this should be developed and implemented. It's wonderful to think that over the next few years our agency and the parent facilitators we plan to collaborate with will have identified and supported 100 new parent leaders."

UCP has targeted the following outcomes for this project:

- The parents will gain an understanding of how the Illinois EI system is administered and how to implement changes.
- The parents will become active members of a local, state or national group that impact early intervention services, and will take a leadership role in that group.
- The parents will help to identify an issue that they want see change in the EI system and implement a plan to bring forth that change.



Autism Pilot cont.

Southern Illinois University School of Medicine which will work with CFCs: Adams Pike Educational #17, Sangamon County Health Department #18, and ARC Community Support Systems #20.

Each of the pilot sites will be comprised of a team of academic/clinical specialists and case management teams who represent communities served by these sites. These teams will work to:

- Encourage early identification and treatment of children with ASD by providing education and training to professionals and parents.
- Develop Best Practice Guidelines in the assessment and treatment of children ages 0-5.
- Evaluate the current system of

care for children ages 0-5 with ASD by offering a limited number of assessments to obtain a comprehensive view of the identification, assessment and treatment process.

- Connect children and families with necessary resources and organize parent support groups at each pilot site.
- Develop an interactive web site designed to provide information to parents and professionals
- Evaluate funding options that will make treatment available to needy children in Illinois.

Symposium on Early Intervention scheduled for May 15, 2003

The Seventh Annual Richard P. Brinker Memorial Symposium on Early Intervention will be held from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on May 15, 2003

at the University of Illinois-Chicago (UIC) Illini Union, 828 S. Wolcott. "Effective Practices for Working with Children and Families in Complex Environments," is the focus of this year's symposium, which is sponsored by UIC and Family Development Center, the Chicago Consortium of Early Intervention Providers of United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Chicago.

Early Intervention providers can receive hours toward their credentialing requirements for attending this training. More complete information the symposium, including registration information is available on the EI training website: www.illinoiseittraining.org

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