

How To Reach US

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708.444.8460
ext. 250

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866.509.3867

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EI Website

www.illinoiscitraining.org

Address

7550 W.
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How to Reach

Provider
Connections
800.701.0995

Bureau of
Early Intervention
217.782.1981

Central Billing Office
800.634.8540

Early
Intervention
Monitoring
800.507.5007
217.726.2263

Early Intervention Training News

Administered by the United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Chicago and

First Responses to Illinois Family Outcome Survey Give EI A Good Report Card

And the Surveys Say..... Illinois EI Helps Families

This seems to be the consensus of the 1,650 families who were sent Family Outcome Surveys.

"This is a fabulous program."

The staffers are wonderful and really help children who need more attention when it is crucial developmentally."

"EI has been a bright spot in a very difficult time."

More family comments on page 2

Comments families noted in the surveys send a very positive message to early intervention service coordinators and providers. Often there is not enough time for a "thank you" given the amount of time a family might be involved with early intervention and the intensity of what a family goes through at what can be a very critical time in their lives.

"Although these survey results are very promising, the return rate was much lower than what we had anticipated and what we need to receive," explains ----- . "We are putting some changes in place to ensure that the surveys are delivered to the Child and Family Connections earlier. We are also asking service coordinators and providers to encourage families to fill out the surveys.

The Family Outcome Survey Offers Families an Opportunity to Shape the Illinois EI System

The Illinois Department of Human Services received a federal grant to develop a survey to measure early intervention family outcomes in conjunction with Texas' EI program and the Early Childhood Outcomes (ECO) Center. Various pieces of the project were conducted over the past 18 months. Initial grant work focused on working with families to determine the process for collecting survey information and crafting a draft survey. This was followed by focus groups to elicit feedback on survey content. Sixty-one early intervention families participated in these focus groups. This feedback was utilized to create the survey that was distributed during the pilot.

The pilot of the family outcomes survey was conducted in Illinois during the months of May and June. During this time period, 1932 surveys were delivered to the 25 CFC offices across the state of Illinois. Service coordinators were asked to hand deliver the survey packets to the chosen families during an annual or six-month IFSP meeting.

Packets included a cover letter, a survey, and a postage-paid return envelope. A reminder postcard, that was to be mailed after the meeting, was attached to each packet. If a packet was not delivered, service coordinators were asked to indicate the reason on the outside of the packet and return the packet to the training program.

See Family Outcome Survey Page 2

Family Outcome Survey Cont.

Surveys asked 18 questions about a variety of outcomes that may be expected as a result of participating in early intervention services. An additional 3 questions target items that must be reported in the state's annual performance report. Focus group families generally needed about 10 minutes to complete the survey. The survey also contained several lines for comments. Nearly half of the families completing the survey used these lines to provide comments. Most of the comments recognized service coordinators and providers for the work they do on behalf of their family.

First Dissemination Included 1,932 Packets

Of the 1932 packets sent to CFCs, 273 were returned to the training program because they were not delivered to families. The majority of the surveys were returned because the meeting was held prior to the surveys being delivered to the CFC. Of the 1659 surveys that were given to families, 405 surveys were completed. Families who returned surveys were entered in a drawing for a gift card. Almost 70 families received gift cards for their participation.

The Project is Changing

During the next phase of the project, several changes will be made in an effort to get more surveys into the hands of families and improve return rates. Surveys will be delivered to CFCs earlier than they were during the pilot. An additional reminder will also be sent from the local level. These changes will hopefully increase the feedback received about how early intervention impacts the lives of families.

The Families Said.....

"We have been happy with the early intervention system and love seeing the progress our daughter has made. It is a wonderful program. Thank you so much for all you do."

"Early intervention has done wonders for our son and I am very pleased with the results- It was the best call I could have made for my family!"

"I'm both highly satisfied and impressed with the communication and inclusion in the decision-making process with early intervention."

"The program has helped not only our child but us as well."

Bits-n-Pieces From The Training Program...

... Dr. Ken Moses touched the hearts of many while reflecting on his personal life experiences and sharing insightful service strategies during his keynote address at the 'Creating Caring Connections, Working With Families in Early Intervention' conference held December 8th in Rolling Meadows. Dr. Moses, along with 17 other talented professionals provided a wealth of information and techniques for early interventionists to implement and share in their work with families. Thanks to the conference presenters' willingness to share their expertise, conference vendors' guidance, services, and products, the conference staff's diligence to bring this all together, and to the 350 conference registrants' exuberant participation for making this the best EI conference to date. Building on this momentum, the EI Training Program looks forward to the next event, 'Baby Steps and Helping Hands—Child Development in Early Intervention', featuring TouchPoints presented by Staff from the Brazelton Institute. Scheduled for March 21, 2007 in Fairview Heights registration information for this and the June 13th conference focusing on Intervention Strategies in Early Intervention, to be held in Effingham, can be found on page 4.

...www.illinoiseittraining.org nears the end of its metamorphosis. Coming at you with a new look, more search options and much more user friendly, the website will offer users access to events calendars, pertinent early intervention information and resources in a more timely and efficient manner. Once the final steps of data transfer are finished, the 'NEW' www.illinoiseittraining.org will be unveiled.

...As EI Activity Credit Requests steadily flow in for review, the Review Team notes that the forms currently posted on www.illinoiseittraining.org are the most efficiently processed and asks that you please use those forms when submitting your request. The collaborative efforts of Provider Connections and the EI Training Program, in reviewing your professional and continuing ed achievements for Illinois Early Intervention credentialing purposes, continues to evolve as we strive toward consistency in the process. And like other entities that process 'paperwork' it becomes necessary to periodically modify forms and make changes towards greater efficiency. There are a few older versions of the Activity Request for EI Credit forms circulating through the state, so that your requests can be processed more efficiently, please disregard those older forms and use the ones included in this newsletter and posted on the EI Training Program's website. Thank you.

END OF THE YEAR REFLECTIONS



By Ted Burke,
Executive Director EI Training Program

viewed, catalogued, and entered over 6800 workshops into our database with the total number of core area hours approved as follows: 6426 hours in assessment; 4869 hours in working with families; 2770 hours in typical development; 4320 hours in atypical development; and 16250 hours in intervention. This grant year has seen a significant increase in the number of submissions of credit requests due to the new credentialing requirements and we are continually improving the review process.

I recently returned from the 2006 International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and their Families and found myself reenergized and revitalized with the work we are doing here in Illinois in the area of early intervention. I was pleased to see the Illinois Early Intervention System highlighted in so many positive ways during the sessions I attended, that it made me reflect on how far we've come since I moved to Illinois and was introduced to this system over 14 years ago.

The list of presenters from Illinois was long and included Shari Address, Jennifer Barret-Zitkus, Deborah Bruns, Ted Burke, Lynette Chandler, Susan Connor, Joan Debelak, Sharon Doubet, Linda Gilkerson, Chelsea Guillen, Roberta Hansen, Sarah Nichols, Donna Nylander, Micki Ostrosky, Christine Salisbury, Amy Santos, Therese Wehman, Tweety Yates and Angela Ziehmke. If you run into any of them, congratulate them for representing Illinois so well!

For those of you looking for training hours towards you EI credentials, don't forget to check out our website at www.illinoiseitesting.org to view our past approved events. To date the Training Program has re-

A common question that we continue to 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 inevaluating 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. Have a safe and Happy Holiday Season.

CREDENTIAL UPDATES FROM PROVIDER CONNECTIONS

- By Rob Derry, Program Director

Effective July 1, 2006, presenters of EI approved workshops and/or instructors of college courses qualify for credit equal to the number of contact hours involved in a presentation/course. Even though an individual may present the same training curriculum several times, credit will be issued only once. Just as a provider may attend a particular workshop more than once, an instructor can claim continuing education credit once.

Credit requests for workshops presented should be submitted to the Illinois EI Training Program. Documentation submitted must clearly indicate the instructor/presenter of the workshop and be substantiated in writing by the sponsoring organization.

Credit requests for college courses taught should be submitted to Provider Connections along with a letter of confirmation from the department chair and a syllabus from the course.

Quick Reminder: With the new CANTS and criminal background checks taking effect, Provider Connections will be sending out reminder notices to providers coming up for renewal each quarter. Please make sure we have your current address so you can get updates and information from us.

Fax address changes to Provider Connections at 309-298-3066.

EI Conference Registration Form

TO REGISTER: Indicate the conference(s) you are registering for, complete the portion below and send payment, payment, check (\$50.00 per conference) payable to UCP of Greater Chicago, to:

The Illinois EI Training Program - 7550 W 183rd Street - Tinley Park, IL 60477

- 'Baby Steps and Helping Hands - Child Development in Early Intervention', featuring members of the Brazelton Institute ~ Wednesday, March 21, 2007, in Fairview Heights, IL
- Intervention Strategies (title TBD) featuring Tweety Yates, Larry Edleman ~ Wednesday, June 13, 2007, in Effingham, IL

NAME: _____ PROF. DISCIPLINE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

DAYTIME PHONE: _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

Illinois Early Intervention Training Program
c/o UCP of Greater Chicago
7550 W. 183rd Street
Tinley Park, IL 60477

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EI Training Activity Request

Complete this questionnaire to request contact hours for EI Activities that have not been pre-approved by the Illinois Early Intervention Training Program and EI Activities that are not listed on the website www.illinoiseittraining.org. Your request may be faxed or mailed to the EI Training Program at:

7550 W 183rd Street

Tinley Park, IL 60477

FAX: 708.444.8470

PHONE: 708.444.8460, ext. 250

TOLL FREE: 866.509.3867, ext. 250

PLEASE NOTE: Processing may take up to 30 business days upon receipt of request.

A separate request form is required for each activity you attend. Please type/print/write clearly your responses in black ink (no pencil). After your information has been reviewed, this form will be returned to you. If EI credentialing credit has been awarded, include a copy of this form attached to proof of attendance with your (re)credentialing application sent to Provider Connections.

Include the following information and short answer responses:

Name: _____ EI Credential Expiration: _____

Daytime Phone: () _____ Fax: () _____

Home or Work Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

1. Title of Workshop: _____ Date Held: _____

City/State Held: _____ Sponsoring Entity/Trainer: _____

2. Include With This Form: * **Brief description of workshop** AND * **Copy of timed program or agenda**

3. What was the main objective of this workshop? * **Write 50-100 words in response to this question.**

4. How will you use the information presented at this workshop in working with children and families receiving Early Intervention services? * **Write 50-100 words in response to this question.**

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Credit Granted In the Following Area(s):

SEAL OF APPROVAL

- _____ Development of Young Children: Typical
- _____ Development of Young Children: Atypical
- _____ Working w/Families of Young Children w/Disabilities
- _____ Intervention Strategies of Young Children w/Special Needs
- _____ Assessment of Young Children w/Special Needs
- _____ TOTAL HOURS APPROVED

Approved By _____

Date _____

Illinois Early Intervention Training Program