



Official Newsletter of the Illinois Subdivision of the Division
for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 1

Upcoming Events

Division for Early Childhood (DEC)

Annual International Con- ference on Young Child with Special Needs and Their Families

October 19th to 22nd,
2006

Little Rock Statehouse Convention Center

Little Rock, Arkansas

For more information visit
[http://www.dec-
sped.org/conference_05/about_th
e_conference.html](http://www.dec-sped.org/conference_05/about_the_conference.html)

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A Message from the IDEC President Deborah A. Bruns, Ph.D.

I am very excited to be President of the Illinois Division for Early Childhood for the 2006 – 2007 term. I have been involved with IDEC for over 10 years and look forward to a productive year for families, professionals, administrators, students, and faculty in early intervention/early childhood special education.

It is important to remember that the more things change, the more they stay the same. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act has been reauthorized and the regulations for Part C and Part B have been released. I am pleased that IDEC has been involved in providing input that will assist children and families in our state receive the services and supports they deserve. I also hold the position of

Children's Action Network Coordinator and urge you to join CAN and add your voice to the exchange of ideas. Please contact me at dabrunsi@siu.edu to add your name to the CAN listserv.

Closer to home, we are facing the prospect of federal funding cuts for some special education programs and services. Reimbursements, via Medicaid for example, will be reduced or cut for mandated services such as speech therapy and nursing support. The shortfall will directly impact school districts, many of which are ill-equipped to shoulder additional costs for general or special education.

Also, join me in congratulating Mary-alayne Hughes taking over as President-Elect and Julie Evans as Vice President. Julie brings with her a wealth of knowledge through her work at the Illinois State Board of Education. IDEC is lucky to have her on our Executive

Board. I also want to personally thank Past-President Jennifer Loncola for her leadership in making IDEC an active and forward-looking subdivision.

You may contact Debbie Bruns at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, College of Education and Human Services: dabrunsi@siu.edu, (618) 453-2311 (phone) or (618) 453-7110 (fax).

Illinois Subdivision of
the Division for Early
Childhood of the
Council for
Exceptional Children



Find us on the web
at
<http://illinois-dec.org/>

FAMILY RELATIONS: Invitation for participation in Family Article Series by Lisa A. Ellis

The IDEC Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Illinois Division for Early Childhood. Please send your inquiries, comments, and article submissions to:

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In Fall 2005, this newsletter introduced its readers to Brian*, a boy with autism who was born in Korea. His mother provided us with a comparison of service delivery in Korea and Illinois. She also shared her struggles with finding a balance between meeting her son's academic

and social needs in the schools. In a more recent edition we met Tara*, a toddler with Down's Syndrome. In this article we learned about her mother's hopes for her daughter's life with this disability. In addition she shared her successes and challenges in collaborating with early intervention providers. Both articles

provided practitioners with a family perspective on early childhood special education in Illinois. Each family story shared provides depth to our perspectives of the families we serve.

We know there are Illinois

Continued on page 2

Membership Matters! Come and join us!!!

The [Division for Early Childhood\(DEC\)](#) of the [Council for Exceptional Children \(CEC\)](#) is a nonprofit organization advocating for individuals who work or on behalf of children with special needs, birth through age eight, and their families.

Founded in 1973, DEC, promotes publications and advances evidence-based practices that support families and enhance the optimal development of young children who have or are at risk for developmental delays and disabilities.

Here's a sampling of membership benefits:

- Access to CEC publications such as, Exceptional Children, Teaching Exceptional Children, and CEC Today Plus, DEC Publications such as the Journal of Early Intervention and Young Exceptional Children.
- Discounts on resources and materials specifically for special educators.
- Professional development opportunities, such as the CEC Annual Convention and Expo and the DEC Conference.
- Networking opportunities for professional support.
- Online Member-Only discussion forums
- Discounts on services such as Car Insurance, car rentals and professional insurance

CEC's 2006 "Back to School" Student Membership Campaign! Students save \$10.00 off CEC's student membership if they join or renew by November 30, 2006.

More information about membership can be found at:

<http://www.dec-sped.org/membershipbenefits.html>

Family Relations (continued from page 1)

families out there whose voices need to also be heard but we need your help in reaching them. Please pass information about this article series on to families who have a child with a disability between the ages of zero and eight. Sharing one's story can be powerful in many ways for family members as it facilitates healing, acceptance, and family advocacy.

The project requires families to be willing to be interviewed regarding their experiences with early intervention in the state of

Illinois. Interviews conducted either in person or by phone, can include more than one family member. Perhaps, a grandparent or close friend has also been an important person in your early intervention. We are interested in the perspective of the entire family. All of the published articles will maintain confidentiality by changing any identifying information such as names in the article. Also, families will be given the opportunity to review their story prior to it's publication.

Families contact Lisa Ellis via email at LAELLIS2@uiuc.edu or phone at 217.377.9348 if they are interested in being a part of this project.

*Names have been changed to provide confidentiality to families and children.



Donna Nylander will be honored at the 2006 DEC conference with the prestigious **Excellence in Professional Practice Rose C. Engel Award.**

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!



Greg Cheatham will be honored at the 2006 DEC conference with the **J. David Sexton Doctoral Student Award!**

DEC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Tweety Yates, Ph.D.

As the current President of the Division for Early Childhood (DEC) of the Council for Exceptional Children, I feel very honored to be writing this letter for the IDEC Newsletter. Not only am I proud to be an IDEC member, but I am also appreciative of the IDEC members who have served on the DEC Governance Board over the years! Thanks to all of you and your commitment, IDEC is one of the strongest subdivisions within DEC and serves as a model for other subdivisions!

I hope that Illinois will be well represented at the 2006 Annual DEC International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families. This conference will be held in Little Rock, Arkansas on October 19-22. The theme for this year's conference is *Advancing Knowledge, Enhancing Opportunities*. It is an interesting time for early intervention and early childhood special education and this conference provides a great opportunity for us to grow personally and professionally. There will be full day pre-and post-conference workshops, conference sessions, research-to-

practice sessions, what's happening in Washington sessions, crackerbarrel sessions, poster sessions, career fairs, family focused sessions and meetings, a special event at the Clinton Presidential Library, and many exhibits! In addition, there will be a special poster session for subdivisions and we would love to have a large Illinois group at the IDEC poster! It is a great opportunity to "show off" IDEC!

I would also like to take this opportunity to challenge all of us to do just a little more (I can hear all of the loud groans as you read this!)? I know we are all very busy, but could you find a few minutes to encourage someone to visit the IDEC website (Illinois-dec.org/index.html) or the DEC website (www.dec-sped.org) for more information about what both organizations are doing and how they can become involved? Can you find a few minutes to look over the websites to gather useful information and determine how you can become more involved? Please feel free to contact me, or any of the DEC governance, if you have questions, issues or concerns

that you think DEC should address or if you would like to become more involved. Contact information can be found on the DEC website.

Thank you again for your interest, support and participation in IDEC and DEC. Most especially, thank you for your ongoing efforts in support of young children and their families. Hope to see you in Little Rock!

Submitted by Tweety Yates, DEC President



Sharing a Vision 2007 update!

The 10th Illinois Statewide Collaborative Early Childhood Conference will take place on October 17-19, 2007 in Springfield, Illinois. The conference committee is already busy with initial planning and excitement over the 2007 conference is brewing. We have many exciting sessions and activities planned for 2007 but we need your help! Now is the time to consider volunteering during the conference. For four hours of time, we will grant one complimentary conference registration. More information regarding volunteer opportunities will be made available in the coming months.

Sharing a Vision Planning Committee Calendar

Are you interested in joining the planning committee for Sharing a Vision 2007? We welcome new faces and collaborative partners. If you would like to help with a conference committee, please contact Susan Ferry at 217-824-4776 or sharingavision@aol.com. Meetings will be held in either the Bloomington, Illinois area or at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Springfield on the dates listed

October 27, 22006
January 19, 2007
March 23, 2007
May 18, 2007 (Crowne Plaza Hotel)
July 20, 2007
September 21, 2007
October 17 2007 (Crowne Plaza Hotel)

Submitted by Jennifer Loncola, SAV conference Co-Chair. Jennifer may be contacted at 773-325-7637 or jloncola@depaul.edu.



Preparing Relationship-based Early Intervention Personnel:

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Early Childhood/Infancy program in the Department of Special Education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has been awarded federal funding to support students interested in attaining a **master's degree in early childhood special education, with an emphasis on working with infants/toddlers with disabilities and their families.** This is a 2 year program of study for full-time students; some students also work toward this degree on a part-time basis.

FOR INQUIRIES:

Contact:

LaShorage Shaffer, PREP
Project Coordinator
lshaffel@uiuc.edu

or

Dr. Mary-alayne Hughes,
PREP Project Co-
Principal Investigator
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Completion of the master's program will provide the student with the core content requirements that are necessary to apply for Illinois' **Early Intervention Developmental Therapist** credential. Future employment opportunities for individuals holding this credential include

- early interventionist in a social service agency that serves infants/toddlers with disabilities
- self-employed service provider in early intervention
- child care provider or early interventionist in an integrated child care setting

Funding is limited and will be awarded on a competitive basis. This funding consists of a tuition waiver plus waiver of some fees, and a traineeship (10 hours/week; approximately \$666/month compensation). Interested individuals should apply to the graduate program in the Department of Special Education and explain in their goal statement why they are interested in working with infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. They should also indicate their interest in participating in the PREP Project.

Deadline for Fall 2007 admissions is April 1, 2007.

RESOURCE CONNECTIONS: Illinois Early Care and Professional Development Network by LaShorage Shaffer

The Illinois Early Care and Professional Development Network is a resource website under the Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies and the Illinois Department of Human Services. It is designed to provide state-wide resources to individuals that work with young children and their

families. These resources range from providing information on early childhood education as a career, training, credentialing, financial opportunities, professional development, advocacy, and more. The network has Professional Development Advisors (PDAs) that provide support in

decisions regarding, current and future professional development plans. The network also publishes a free newsletter, *Gateways Insider*, quarterly that contains early care and education news and views

Visit the website at:
www.ilgateways.com.

