



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

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 2

## Upcoming Events

### "Many Hands, One Vision"

#### The 10 Illinois Statewide Collaborative Early Child- hood Conference

**October 17-19, 2007**

*Crown Plaza Hotel*

Springfield, IL

For more information visit  
<http://sharingavision.org/conf/2007/sav07.html>

#### **DEC annual Conference 2007**

Look inside for more information

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

With a new year come new possibilities for Illinois' young children, their families and the professionals who work with them.

Early Childhood Outcomes (ECO), Response to Intervention (RTI) and additional acronyms for strategies and interventions continue to be added to the alphabet soup of EI/ECSE. It is imperative that we stay informed regarding both "old" and "new" initiatives. It is also necessary for all of us to be proactive in making our voices heard on behalf of our profession. History has shown us that many "new" treatments and programs do not meet their claims. The push for evidence-based

practice assists us in selecting the appropriate choices and monitoring our efforts.

I encourage IDEC's membership to frequent the DEC website (<http://www.dec-sped.org/>) and participate in the Children's Action Network. I recently saw a bumper sticker that made me think about all of these things: *If you don't vote, don't whine*. This can be the same for us. It is difficult to find the time to learn about new assessment tools, interventions and strategies to work with families but well worth the effort in improved outcomes for young children at-risk for delays or with disabilities. Plus, we know that whining doesn't work!!

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

### Inside this issue:

CSEFEL	2
TAP	3
IDTA	3
CAN News	4
New Funding	4
PREP Project	5
Membership (IDEC)	5



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

**Find us on the web  
at**

**<http://illinois-dec.org/>**

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

#### **Hasan Zaghlawan**

Publications Co-Coordinator  
Email: [zaghlawa@uiuc.edu](mailto:zaghlawa@uiuc.edu)

#### **LaShorage Shaffer**

Publications Co-Coordinator  
Email: [lshaffe1@uiuc.edu](mailto:lshaffe1@uiuc.edu)

288 College of Education  
1310 S. Sixth Street  
Champaign, IL 61820  
217-333-0260

## A Website for All the Right Reasons! A Tour of CSEFEL.UIUC.EDU by Sharon Doubet

Are you teaching a college course that includes content and strategies for the social and emotional development of young children? Maybe you are a college student looking for materials for presentations or for course assignments. Or, maybe

you are planning staff development to increase children's social and emotional competencies. Are you a parent looking for ideas to support your child's development? Do you provide parent education opportunities? Are you an early childhood classroom teacher who is frustrated

with the challenging behaviors of some students?

I want to introduce you to a website that is truly "for all the right reasons"! This awesome user-friendly site can provide all of the materials

*Continued on page 2*

## CSEFEL (continued from page 2)

needed for the wide variety of purposes listed above. The Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL) is a national center focused on strengthening the capacity of child care and Head Start programs to improve the social and emotional outcomes of young children. You will find a wide variety of materials available on this site, and it is all free!

Join me for a quick tour around CSEFEL.uiuc.edu. As you are looking around the site, notice that many materials are also in Spanish. We are going to start this tour by clicking on "Resources" on the purple bar near the top of the page.

### Training Modules

This section provides you with Power Point modules for training purposes. These modules are complete with handouts, presenters' guide, module scripts, video clip examples of strategies, complete activities, and session evaluations. All of this can be downloaded and personalized. I encourage you to put in your own photos that represent the adults and children you work with. You can also rearrange the modules to fit your allotting time for training. Personalize and connect the content with your audience, whether it is one person or 100!

If you are preparing to meet professional development needs of a group of individuals, you may find this additional resource to be helpful. The November, 2006, issue of *Young Children* includes an article describing the framework for a professional development plan supporting social and emotional competencies. (Quesenberry, A., & Doubet, S. (2006). A framework for professional development focused on social and emotional competencies. *Young Children*, 61(6), 30-32).

### What Works Briefs

The Briefs are summaries of effective practices for supporting children's social-emotional development and preventing challenging behaviors. They describe practical strategies, provide references to more information about the practice, and include a one-page handout that highlights the major points of the Brief. There are 21 titles, and you will find one to fit your needs! You can print them off, or save them to use anytime. The Briefs are excellent tools for individual study, or for quick professional development opportunities. I find that the vignettes used to describe and demonstrate a practice are based on reality and help people apply the information in a practical way.

Some programs have placed copies of the Briefs in their parent resource area for parents to read there or take home. Be sure to share this website address in your parent newsletter. If you are using the materials for staff professional development, you could print out a list of all 21 titles and survey staff to determine the most needed topics. Plan a series of staff development workshops based on the results of the survey.

### Practical Strategies

This is one of my favorite spots on the CSEFEL site. Take your time to look at all that is offered here. This is where you will find specific strategies that are embedded into the Modules. To learn more about how and when to use these strategies read through the Modules.

**Scripted Stories for Social Situations** – You will find complete directions covering why and how to develop a scripted story (brief descriptive story that teaches a child about a social situation and helps them understand the expectations). The stories are in Power Point which

makes it very easy to print out a variety of sizes of pages for your books. When printing you may choose color or black and white.

There are 7 stories already written that you can download and personalize. The topics include common social settings where young children often need support to be successful, e.g., going to school, circle time expectations, how to be a friend, being safe, using words to express needs and wants.

Developing a scripted story is a great "make-it-take-it" style class or workshop for early childhood students, professionals, and parents. People enjoy writing the sentences and choosing clip art or photos to support a concept. I have found that when people complete their scripted story and leave a session with a tool specific to their child or their class, they are more likely to implement the new strategy.

**Tools for Working on "Building Relationships", Book Nook, Teaching Social Emotional Skills, and Tools for Developing Behavior Support Plans** - These sections include more examples and implementation ideas to use in a variety of learning environments. Each section provides explanations and tools that can be printed out just as they are presented, or you can download to your computer and personalize the strategies.

In summary, I encourage you to investigate all of the resources on the CSEFEL website. Will you use this information for your own professional development, or will you be sharing the materials with others? Use your imagination as you peruse this website and "go shopping" for helpful materials to use when supporting young children's social and emotional development.

## The Autism Program (TAP) of Champaign County: A Community Collaboration

The Autism Program (TAP) is a systems initiative, a network of resources for Autism Spectrum Disorders in the State of Illinois. TAP provides the strategy and framework for the State of Illinois to address the complex issues involved in diagnosis, treatment and research for the thousands of children in Illinois with ASDs. Funding is provided by grants from the Illinois Department of Human Services. In Fiscal year 2006, TAP was funded with \$2.5 million for the entire state of Illinois.

In July 2003 Public Act 93-0395 created TAP and the establishment of three Regional Centers, located at the University of Illinois at Chicago, the Hope School, and Southern Illinois University. In FY 2006, TAP expanded to include two Outreach Centers: Illinois State University and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The underlying strategy for building a system of care for people with autism in Illinois is to combine university expertise and community resources.

Professor James Halle, Professor Aaron Ebata and Linda Tortorelli are the project collaborators at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Together, they decided that to improve existing services and create services that were not yet available, the Champaign-Urbana (C-U) community would need to be fully engaged in the process from the beginning. While there were some services being offered in the C-U area, they were not yet adequate and not very well connected. In December 2006 the project coordinators began assembling lists of potential community stakeholders by group and then by individuals within groups. The stakeholder groups were: parents, community agencies, schools, medical professionals, private therapists and university faculty.

On March 11, 2006 over 80 individuals were invited to a Spring Forum on a Saturday morning to discuss the need for improving services for ASD in the C-U community. Three goals were established for this meeting: create a community forum for discussing the needs of children and adults with ASD, create a communication network of providers for our county, and determine if there is a need for a ASD center in our area. The ideas generated were organized into several themes: develop a centralized system that is family focused and has projects

that a parent-driven approach to service, (b) build a community collaboration, and (c) generate public awareness, education, and increased resources and funding.

A follow-up meeting was held in May 2006 with about 45 people in attendance. The themes that were developed at the March meeting were reviewed and revised. Sub-committees were created around each theme. Individuals were asked to select a committee and to help develop "action steps." Volunteers were also solicited to be part of a Steering Committee that would serve in an advisory capacity to the project collaborators. Additional information about community needs and gaps in services became available from a parent survey that was conducted as a result of a campus Family Resilience Initiative grant that had been funded in 2005.

By September, an advisory board of 9 individuals was chosen by the collaborators to help guide the project. These individuals were chosen from the original stakeholder groups and were representative of the sub-committees. The group decided to pursue several projects that emanated from the needs identified by the

## ILLINOIS DEVELOPMENTAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION (IDTA) by Kimberly Hile

The Illinois Developmental Therapy Association was founded in January 2006 as a way to promote awareness of the field of developmental therapy as well as to unite Developmental Therapists working in the state of Illinois. Members of this organization are actively working towards drafting guidelines that will lead to state licensure, thereby affirming the professional integrity and competence of developmental therapists practicing in the state of Illinois. The IDTA encourages the growth of professional development by monitoring educational courses and trainings in order to ensure that children served by Developmental Therapists

are receiving appropriate services from highly qualified professionals.

Information regarding the Illinois Developmental Therapy Association can be found at <http://www.illinoisdta.org/index.asp>. This website offers contact information for organizations such as Provider Connections, the Illinois Early Intervention Training Program, and the Center for Best Practices in Early Childhood, among numerous others. There are resources providing information regarding where to buy assessment tools and developmentally appropriate toys. Members are also able to monitor upcoming trainings related to the field.

On the website, there is a link to a chat room where Developmental Therapists can pose questions and receive responses from other therapists across the state. For those individuals wishing to join this organization, there is a simple procedure to follow. Membership dues vary according to whether you are a student, in-state versus out-of-state Developmental Therapist, or a professional working in birth to three in some other manner.

## CAN NEWS by Debbie Bruns, President and CAN Coordinator

The Children's Action Network (CAN) will continue to be busy in the New Year.

Comments are still needed on Part C regulations as well as Part D including personnel preparation and development, technology and media services and technical assistance. There is still a call for guidance on Part B for preschool special education services and supports. Also, each year, the Council for Exceptional Children publishes the *Federal Outlook for Exceptional Children*. A key component of this report is success stories of the positive impact of IDEA on children with disabilities. The report is

distributed to members of Congress and other key policy leaders. Instructions for submissions are available at <http://www.cec.sped.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Search&section=Policy and Advocacy1&template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentFileID=1987>

Join CAN and make your voice heard. Contact Bonnie Keilty for information about the DEC Governmental Relations Committee ([bakeilty@email.uncc.edu](mailto:bakeilty@email.uncc.edu)) and Diana LaRocco ([dlarocco@hartford.edu](mailto:dlarocco@hartford.edu)) to be added to the CAN email list.

Check <http://www.dec-sped.org/publicpolicy.html> for updates and action

### "Cross New Borders"

The 23rd Annual International Conference on Young Children with Special needs and Their Families

**October 25-28, 2007**

Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada  
October 25-28, 2007  
Sheraton on the Falls & Brock Plaza

## TAP (continued from page 3)

sub-committees and the parent surveys. The projects currently under development are: (a) a pilot social skills program for adolescents to prepare them for employment, (b) the implementation of a parent orientation program for families receiving an ASD diagnosis, (c) training for several area physicians through the Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (ICAAP) Early Autism Detection

and Referral project, (d) visits to several other autism centers, (e) creating a resource room at Christopher Hall, (f) a webpage link from The Autism Program's main website, and (g) a pilot program for Applied Behavior Analysis training for community families and professionals that capitalizes on in-person consultation support and video-conferencing technology. The project collaborators applied for

a grant renewal and the project was re-funded for the 2006-2007 FY to help support these initiatives.

## ANNOUNCING NEW FUNDING

### Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning

The Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL) is focused on promoting the social and emotional development and school readiness of young children birth to age 5. CSEFEL will serve as a national resource center for disseminating research and evidence-based practices to early childhood programs across the country. CSEFEL is jointly funded by the Office of Head Start and Child Care Bureau, under the auspices of the Administration of Children, Youth and Families at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

**New Areas of Focus:** Birth to Five, Staff and Family Mental Health, and New State Capacity Building and Sustainability Opportunities.

The Center will develop and disseminate evidence-based, user-friendly materials to help early childhood educators meet the needs of the growing number of young children with challenging behaviors and mental health needs.

The Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning will:

Focus on promoting the social and emotional development of children 0-5 as a means of preventing challenging behaviors.

Analyze and synthesize the research on the social and emotional development of low-income children and translate the findings into materials that are practical and accessible.

Engage in intensive training/technical assistance to selected states, territories and/or tribal partners to foster professional development that sustains the use of effective practices at the local level.

Disseminate evidence-based practices and materials via an interactive website.

The Center on the Social and Emotional

Foundations for Early Learning brings together the expertise of nationally prominent faculty from the following institutions and organizations.

Vanderbilt University

ZERO TO THREE

University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center

University of South Florida

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development

For more information, visit the Center's Web site at <http://vanderbilt.edu/csefel> or call 886-433-1966





## 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 lshaf-  
fe1@uiuc.edu

or

Dr. Mary-alayne Hughes,  
PREP Project Co-Principal  
Investigator ma-  
hughes@uiuc.edu

University of Illinois at  
Urbana-Champaign De-  
partment of Special Educa-  
tion

1310 S. Sixth St. Cham-  
paign, IL 61821 (217)  
333-0260

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.**

## A time to join, A time to participate, and a time to celebrate

This year will be exceptional in many ways, especially since we are going to witness two major conferences in early childhood education/early childhood special education (ECE/ECSE) during October 2007 --- Sharing A Vision in Springfield on *October 17-19, 2007* and DEC in Ontario, Canada on *October 25-28, 2007*. We are reaching out to families, children, and professionals, who are at home (in Illinois!) and beyond the border.

Here at home in Illinois during odd number years (i.e., 2007), educators, families, and other professionals look forward to the *Sharing A Vision* (SAV) conference. This conference is sponsored by Illinois DEC, along with several other collaborators. This year in Springfield many hands will be joined to symbolize the spirit of collaboration we embrace in early childhood, many minds will tackle innovative thoughts and ideas, many teachers will light the sky at the conference as they share their stories, and many experts will present cutting edge knowledge and evidence-based practices in ECE/ECSE. Please visit the SAV conference

website <http://sharingavision.org/conf/2007/sav07.html> and learn how you can participate in this exciting conference.

Over the past ten years, early childhood professionals in Illinois meet every other year at the SAV conference to renew our commitment for a better future for young children and their families. As a member of IDEC, you can do something to help make our shared vision of a brighter future for young children into a reality. Visit our website <http://illinois-dec.org/> and learn how you can be a member of IDEC. *Remember that by joining IDEC, you are: making the voice that advocates on behalf of young children and their families louder, making our commitment stronger, and keeping our shared vision alive for the coming years.*

For the first time in its history as an organization, DEC's annual conference will be crossing the border to meet in Ontario, Canada. Professional and families will come from all over to discuss imperative issues that concern the future of young children. In

### Hasan Zaghlawan

DEC there are many opportunities for each member to participate and learn. Please visit DEC conference website [http://www.dec-sped.org/conference\\_05/about\\_the\\_conference.html](http://www.dec-sped.org/conference_05/about_the_conference.html) and learn more how you can participate in this annual international conference.

### Attention members!

- Don't forget to check the AEYC calendar page to learn when there are conferences and meetings in your areas.
- EI people, watch out for Chicago Metro AEYC's 2nd annual Head to Toe conference, aimed at those who work with infants and toddlers. Last year's at the Museum of Science and Industry was sold out and had great reviews.