



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

Volume 17, Issue 4

Message from the IDEEC President...

Mojdeh Bayat

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Find us on the web at

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

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

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It is my pleasure to welcome our newly elected IDEEC Executive Board members: Sallee Beneke, Vice President and Mary Wonderlick, Secretary; and to welcome Lori Erbrederis Meyer, as the new student representative on the Board.

Our field is an evolving field. As an organization, we have understood that we need to bring the latest developments to our members.

Therefore, we are excited to prepare for our 12th biannual conference Sharing A Vision (SAV) to be held in September in Springfield, Illinois. We encourage you to take advantage of this professional development and networking opportunity to not only keep abreast of the latest research, but to discover valuable resources and connect with various colleagues and friends in the field. (For more information please see pages 6 and 9.)

Although in this time of continued sluggish economy and educational budget cuts, it might seem difficult to keep our field innovative and transformative, it is important to remind ourselves of our responsibility to continue to grow and evolve along with the very children and families we aim to serve.

We are also pleased to note that despite the many negative effects that the current state of the economy has had on our field, the major educational policies regarding early learning and education of all children continues to be discussed as a priority in the country. This is partly due to the efforts of professionals such as members of our organization who have continued to passionately advocate for the rights of families and children. Thus, it is heartwarming to hear that Part C regulations have been sent to the office of Budgetary Management in its final stage of approval. We look forward to receiving the OMB decision by the middle of the summer, and encourage our members to continue their tireless efforts on behalf of children and their families.

Sincerely,

Mojdeh Bayat

IDEEC Membership Meeting
Sharing A Vision Conference
Tuesday, September 27
11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Bring your lunch and meet members of the Executive Board and hear about upcoming IDEEC activities.

Newly Elected IDEC Governing Board Members

Congratulations to the newly elected Illinois Division for Early Childhood (IDEC) Governing Board members!

Sallee Beneke has been elected to the office of Vice President. Sallee has held this office on appointment by the Board since October 2010 to fill a vacancy, so in July 2011 she will start her elected term. Sallee's elected terms will occur in the following sequence, per the IDEC Constitution and By-laws: Vice President (July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012), President Elect (2012-13), President (2013-14) and Past President (2014-15). The terms are arranged this way to ensure a strong preparation of Governing Board leadership before the Presidential term, and ensures that there is continuity on the board when two-year officer terms expire (Secretary and Treasurer).

Sallee is an Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education at St. Ambrose University where she teaches courses on curriculum and assessment in inclusive early childhood settings. She received her Ph. D. from the University of Illinois in Special Education, with a focus on early childhood.

Mary Wonderlick is the new Secretary for IDEC. Her term starts on July 1, 2011 and runs to June 30, 2013. Mary is a current Governing Board member, having served for many years in the appointed position of liaison to the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC); At-Risk & Special Needs Interest Forum. Mary also holds positions on the Illinois AEYC board, serving recently as the Program Chair for the successful fall 2010 IL AEYC conference.

Mary is an EC / ECSE consultant, with her experiences covering self-contained early childhood special education, Preschool for All, Head Start and Child Care programs including children with special needs. She is an Early Childhood Instructional Coach with St. Xavier University's research grant to improve the teaching of math and the outcomes of children in EC programs. She was a member of the NAEYC/DEC work group creating the Joint Position Statement on Inclusion.

The IDEC Governing Board thanks all the candidates for their willingness to serve our organization. We look forward to achieving our mission of promoting policies and advancing evidence-based practices that support families and enhance the optimal development of young children birth through age eight who have or are at risk for developmental delays and disabilities with these new leaders!

Robin Miller Young

IDEC Past President

Elections and Nominations Chairperson

DEC 2011: The 27th Annual International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs & Their Families



November 17-19, 2011

National Harbor, Maryland

<http://dec-sped.org/Conference>

Have You Thought About Volunteering Lately?

by Mary Wonderlick

Hmmmm. I know it has occurred to you, to increase your participation in our organization beyond that of simply being a dues paying member. Well, that's called **volunteering**.

Let me tell you what the act of volunteering has done for me. It began fairly late in my professional life; heavens, I was almost 50 years old. And that is old, or was then. My mother always remarked that I did things later than so many – though she was talking more often about daring fashion, color combinations, and style. And activities. But the subtext was risk-taking. Yup, I was late to that game.

My baby step entrée to volunteering, participating in an early childhood membership professional setting was to attend a conference ... all by myself. I didn't know people who participated or went to conferences. Don't believe my school system's ECSE department fostered that. At that first AEYC conference there was a flyer on the seat inviting participants to a meeting to reconstitute a group interested in special needs. I said to myself, "Oh, I could go there." It took me a while to participate, but finally there was something little that I thought I could try to do. It doesn't have to be big or huge; it doesn't have to take huge amounts of time.

The result of long series of baby steps: I, who could not talk in front of any but a group of preschoolers, became a presenter, a speaker. I, who still can't keep my home office organized, have assisted in organizing, planning, and managing a host of conferences, committees, and activities. I, who hadn't valued or even considered my own abilities, who hadn't ever thought to measure my own worth, became confident and proud of what I could do and learned to do more, to accept more challenges and opportunities, to become worthy. I had opportunities and delights heady experiences seeing my name in print, being invited to present on a variety of subjects not only in our Chicago/Illinois area, but at national conferences and even an international venue. Participation and responsibilities gave me pleasure and satisfaction. I, who had always been "just a teacher," not someone with system-wide power or authority, had opportunities. I, who because of my sarcasm had been called, "Mary, the mouth" became, "Mary the outspoken." I had a spectacular opportunity to be part of the group that formulated the DEC/NAEYC Joint Position Statement on Inclusion.

Because of the support of this particular organization, IDEC, there exists a NAEYC special interest group called the At-Risk and Special Needs Interest Forum/Online Community. The mission of the **At-Risk & Special Needs Interest Forum** is to promote communication and networking among our early childhood community-at-large in order to provide a positive approach to working in partnership with families to support the development of young children who are at-risk or who have special needs.

Organizations, membership and professional, depend on us for more than dues and dollars. The goal is always to be a more high performing inclusive group that creates value for members. We count on our organizations to do for us. HOWEVER, the organization is US; it is Y-O-U. Come to a meeting, an activity. Offer to help for just a moment. Make a call. Send an e-mail.

Once upon a time there were four people named Everybody, Somebody, Nobody, and Anybody. When there was an important job to be done, Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. When Nobody did it, Everybody got angry

because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Somebody would do it, but Nobody realized that Nobody would do it. So it ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done in the first place. (attribution unknown)

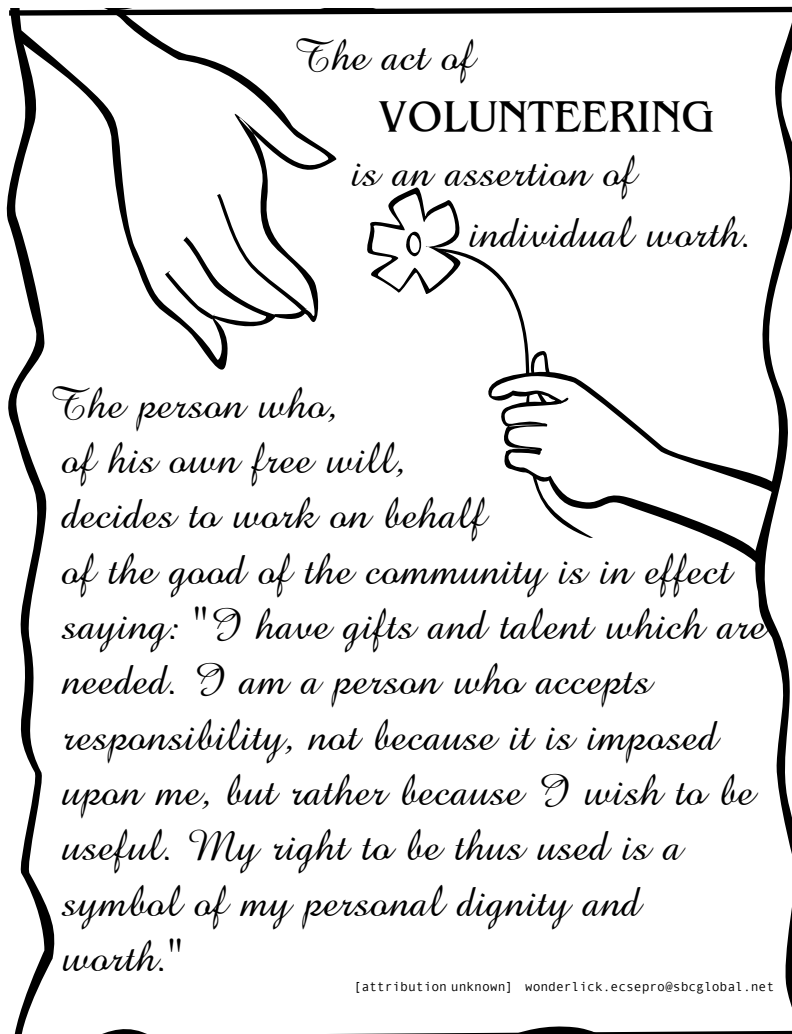
If you keep doing what you've been doing
You're gonna keep getting what you've been getting.

**If you want something different
You've gotta do something different.**
(attribution unknown)

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO??

If you wait for tomorrow, tomorrow comes. If you don't wait for tomorrow, tomorrow comes.
-Malinke Proverb

Mary Wonderlick, M.A. Learning Disabilities, is an Early Childhood and Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) consultant, the facilitator of NAEYC At Risk and Special Needs Interest Forum, a member of the IL AEYC Board, and the newly elected Secretary of the IDEC Governing Board.



Update on Hearing and Vision Services

by Gail Olson

Although the Hearing and Vision Connections office closed at the end of March, 2011, there was a desire to continue some of the services of HVC through expansion of the Illinois School for the Deaf (ISD) and the Illinois School for the Visually Impaired (ISVI) Outreach departments to include Early Intervention. ISD was the fiscal agent for Hearing and Vision Connections, a statewide training and technical assistance program for infants with vision and/or hearing loss in operation since July 1999. Outreach expansion to include Early Intervention would ensure that training and technical assistance previously provided by HVC continues statewide.

The Hearing Screening for Newborns Act mandated that infants be screened for hearing loss at birthing hospitals. As a result, children are identified and referred to Early Intervention far earlier than ever before. Infants with vision loss also need intervention as early as possible. We want to ensure there are service providers and supports for families in place to serve them once they are identified.

Provider support will continue through professional preconferences, web meetings and summer DTH and DTV events. Parent support will be in the forms of education and resources including Parent Infant Institutes at both schools, statewide parent conferences, newsletters, networking opportunities and new parent resource packets on hearing loss and communication options. Many of the services will be very similar to what was previously provided by Hearing and Vision Connections.

The name of the new program that replaces HVC is **Hearing and Vision Early Intervention Outreach (HV/EIO)** and is part of the Illinois School for the Deaf and Illinois School for the Visually Impaired Outreach departments. It is funded by the DHS Bureau of Early Intervention as of April 1, 2011. Although the program was effective April 1, it was not staffed from March 31 to May 31. I was hired as the coordinator effective June 1, 2011. No other staff have yet been hired. All services previously provided by HVC, will be provided by HV/EIO, with one exception, the Deaf Mentor program. Deaf Mentors currently enrolled in the EI system will be able to continue providing services and can bill the system for services, however there will be NO additional training sessions for new Deaf Mentors to enter the system.

All contact information for the HV/EIO remains the same as HVC. The website remains www.morgan.k12.il.us/isd/hvc and we can be found on Facebook by searching Hearing and Vision Early Intervention Outreach. Our offices remain at the Illinois School for the Deaf in Jacksonville.

Gail Olson is the Coordinator of Hearing and Vision Early Intervention Outreach. You can contact Gail at:

The Illinois School for the Deaf
125 Webster Avenue
Jacksonville, Illinois 62650
gail.olson@illinois.gov



Sharing a Vision Conference: Children, Families and Professionals Together

September 26-28, 2011
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Springfield, IL

Keynotes: LeDerick Horne: Poet, playwright, motivational speaker, advocate
"Beyond Classification"
John Foppe: Author and owner of international training company
"Within Reach"

Lunch for both days is now included in the registration fee.

For all fee options, descriptions of pre-conference and conference sessions, and registration information, please visit the conference website:

<http://sharingavision.org/>

Everything I ever needed to know,
I learned from Mister Rogers.



The Fred Rogers Company (www.fredrogers.org) continues his legacy with resources for early childhood educators and families. There is an online Professional Development Newsletter which is a free subscription. The latest issue features an article on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) by Hedda Sharapan. Hedda worked directly with Fred Rogers for many years. **She will be a presenter at the upcoming Sharing A Vision Conference.**

The company also has a variety of videos of children in classrooms which can be downloaded for use in training. Hedda describes the best practices which are illustrated in each segment.

Selected episodes of Mister Rogers' Neighborhood can be viewed on the PBS Kids website at <http://pbskids.org/rogers/>. There are also segments of video from field trips he took such as the Crayon Factory segment and others that show how things are made. These clips could be used directly with children in the classroom as part of projects.

Interested in getting paid while earning your master's degree?



***Preparing Relationship-based Early Intervention &
Early Childhood Special Education Personnel:
PREP II Project***

The Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) program in the Department of Special Education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has been awarded federal funding (PREP II Project) to support students interested in earning a **master's degree**, with an emphasis on working with young children, ages birth to six, with disabilities and their families. This is a 2 year full-time program of study on the Champaign-Urbana campus. There are no online courses at the present time.

Interested individuals should apply to the graduate program in the Department of Special Education.

For more information about the application process and admission deadlines, visit: **<http://education.illinois.edu/sped/AdmissionsMasters.html>**. Applicants should indicate their interest in the PREP II project in the goal statement component of the application materials.

If accepted into the program, funding consists of a traineeship stipend, a tuition waiver, and waiver of some fees. Funding is limited and awarded on a competitive basis. Attached to this funding is a service obligation to be fulfilled after completion of the degree.

For more information contact:

Mary-alayne Hughes, Project Director
mahughes@illinois.edu

NAEYC 2011 Annual Conference



Orlando, Florida

November 2-5, 2011

www.naeyc.org

RtI Resources for Early Childhood

by Robin Miller Young

Where can you look to learn more about RtI in Early Childhood (EC) and Preschool settings? Try the RTI Action Network, a program of the National Center for Learning Disabilities, where their motto is "Helping ALL Students Succeed"! Recent issues of the IDEC Newsletter have included information on this national network. The following is an update on resources and networking opportunities available from them.

In the March 2011 issue of the IDEC Newsletter, there was an article that introduced the new blog on Response to Intervention in Early Childhood (EC) and Preschool settings (<http://www.rtinetwork.org/rti-blog>). Since that time, Prairie Children Preschool (IPSD # 204, Aurora, IL) staff members have been posting entries about their experiences transitioning into RtI practices. Five entries have been posted, including one written by Megan Hafer, an inclusive classroom teacher, in which she described first-hand how she employs screening practices and a tiered instructional model at the preschool and in her classroom to meet children's needs. Kristy Herrell, a school psychologist, wrote about the use of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) as a vehicle for embedding professional development that supports RtI practices in the EC/ECSE program. The most recent entry, just posted this week (June 20), was written by LuAnn Shields, PCP Principal. She describes some of the leadership strategies required to support staff in the change and transition process as they move into an RtI model. Specifically, she shares how creating a culture of contentment and trust in the educational workplace through feedback, meeting with individual teams, and regularly connecting co-workers, both within and across teams, can expand leadership capacity and create a professional learning community where RtI practices can flourish.

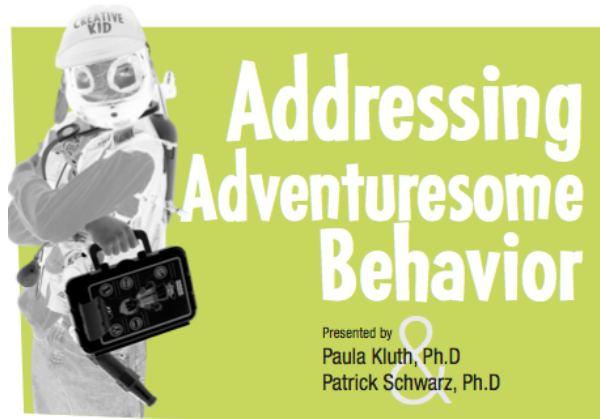
The final two postings were written by Robin Miller Young and they included an introduction to the blog and the purposes it will serve; Robin also wrote an entry in which she described the "Big Ideas" of RtI applied to EC/Preschool settings. Five other entries are under development and will be posted monthly. Please read these blog entries and then add your own comments about the experiences of preschool teachers and other early childhood team members engaged in the RtI initiative!

Another resource is the article written by PCP staff members posted on the RtI Action Network's website titled Developing Socially Competent and Emotionally Resilient Young Children Through an Early Childhood RtI Framework (<http://rtinetwork.org/learn/rti-in-pre-kindergarten/developing-socially-competent-and-emotionally-resilient-young-children>). This article highlights PCP's universal practices and provides an overview of the process for developing, implementing, and sustaining these EC practices in order to help young learners acquire social and emotional developmental milestones and prepare for successful engagement with formal schooling experiences. The PCP program includes use of the Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) system and PATHS (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies), as well as completion of Functional Behavior Assessments (FBAs) and development of Behavior Support Plans (BSPs) when needed.

RtI Action Network staff members spent two days at PCP in January 2011 to conduct observations and interviews on videotape that will be used to develop an "RtI Virtual School" for the preschool level. The network already has "virtual schools" at the other levels and PCP will be used as the first preschool "virtual school." We'll let you know when that is available for viewing on the RtI Action Network's website.

We hope you find these RtI Action Network resources on RtI applied to the EC/Preschool settings helpful!

Robin Miller Young, Ed.D. is the RtI in EC/Preschool Blog Facilitator and the Immediate Past President of IDEC.



Sharing A Vision Pre-Conference Workshop
September 26, 2011
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Springfield, IL

Dr. Paula Kluth and Dr. Patrick Schwarz will present a child-centered, authentic, functional approach to assess behavior. They will discuss a problem-solving process which will be applied to combine components of the very best user-friendly behavioral support strategies in early childhood settings. They will illustrate this approach and then share how the approach can be applied to real-life classroom and learning situations identified by participants.



Patrick Schwarz is a dynamic and engaging professor, author, motivational speaker and leader in Education (Inclusive Education, Special Education, General Education, Educational Leadership) and Human Services. He is a professor at National-Louis University, Chicago. Patrick's company is Creative Culture Consulting LLC. He is the author of several books on disability and inclusion.

Paula Kluth is a consultant, teacher, author, advocate, and independent scholar who works with teachers and families to provide inclusive opportunities for students with disabilities and to create more responsive and engaging schooling experiences for all learners. Her research and professional interests include differentiating instruction, and supporting students with autism and significant disabilities in inclusive classrooms. She is the author and co-author of several books on autism.

There is no cost to attend this pre-conference workshop. Space is limited.

Contact STARNET Region VI (708-342-5370) for a registration form.

Registration deadline: August 26, 2011.



**Conference sponsored by National Early Childhood Outcomes Center and
National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center**

September 18-21, 2011

New Orleans, Louisiana

<http://www.nectac.org/~meetings/outcomes2011/mtghomepage.asp>

**Assistive Technology Industry Association
2011 Conference - Chicago
Renaissance Schaumburg Hotel and Convention Center
Schaumburg, Illinois
November 2-5, 2011**

This conference provides the latest information on innovative assistive technologies and services to enhance learning and independence for people with disabilities. Some sessions are devoted to educational strategies for young learners.

For information and registration visit their website:



<http://www.atia.org>

Early bird registration deadline: July 18, 2011



Spring 2011 Issue of Early Childhood Research and Practice
contains a special section on Social and Emotional Issues in Early
Childhood Settings

<http://ecrp.uiuc.edu/v13n1/index.html>



Global Summit on Childhood 2012 International Conference

March 28-31, 2012,
Washington, D.C.

Call for Papers

Proposal Submission Deadline: September 30, 2011

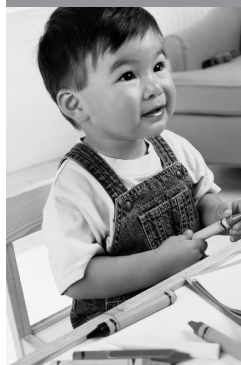
<http://acei.org/knowledge/conferences/annual-conference/>



Presentations from the **Eleventh National Early Childhood Inclusion Institute** held May 16-18, 2011 are now available through the National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center. Powerpoint presentations from a variety of sessions can be downloaded at:

<http://www.nectac.org/~meetings/inclusionmtg2011/mtghomepage.asp>

GRADUATE PROGRAMS AT ELMHURST



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