



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

Volume 18, Issue 1

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## Message from the IDEC President...

**Mojdeh Bayat**

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### Find us on the web at

[http://illinois-  
dec.org/](http://illinois-dec.org/)

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

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Dear IDEC members,  
Happy fall! I hope you are off to a very good start in the new school year. There are a few items I would like to share with you.

First of all, we are excited and looking forward to see you all at Sharing a Vision (SAV Conference) from September 26-28th. Please join us for the Illinois DEC networking meeting to take place on September 27th at 11:45 a.m. during the conference.

Second, as you may know, the State of Illinois was successful in the initial phase of the application process for the Race-to-the-Top grant program. Currently, Illinois is in the process of completing the final phase of this application. The Illinois Early Learning Council has received the comments of DEC and Illinois DEC regarding this program. We hope to learn more about the status of this application soon. As we receive the DEC and official State postings regarding this grant program, we will share it with our members through the IDEC listserv.

Finally, on behalf of the IDEC Executive Board, congratulations to Cindy Zumwalt who was appointed the Illinois State Board of Education Early Childhood Division Administrator. We look forward to working with Cindy as we continue promoting best practices for young children, families, and programs in our state.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you at SAV. Keep up the good work on behalf of children and their families.

Sincerely,

*Mojdeh Bayat*

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**IDEC Membership Meeting**  
**Sharing A Vision Conference**  
**Tuesday, September 27**  
**11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**  
*See page 7 for more information.*

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**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"

**Message from Conference Co-chairs:**

*We are looking forward to seeing you at the 12th Biennial Conference Children, Families and Professionals Together to be held in Springfield at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, September 26-28! There are many wonderful pre-conference sessions to choose from including: Least Restrictive Environment for Administrators Academy, Feedback Intensive for Educational Leaders, Designing Inclusive Lives from the Start, Recipes for Success for Early Intervention, Addressing Adventurous Behavior and Bilingual Language Learners. And, that's just the PRE-CONFERENCE!!*

*The regular conference days will prove to be just as stimulating and inviting. Our keynote speakers, LeDerick Horne and John Foppe will inspire and motivate everyone so you don't want to miss these exciting speakers.*

*Nationally known speaker, Hedda Sharapan from the Fred Rogers Company, will be presenting sessions on Becoming Readers and Writers and What Do You Do with the Mad that You Feel. HighScope will be reporting on using the PQA, a Program Quality Assessment among MANY other presentations.*

*Be one of the nearly 1000 early childhood professionals and families to join us.*

*Check out the website at: [www.sharingavision.org](http://www.sharingavision.org) and REGISTER TODAY!!*

Carol Weisheit and Sharon Doubet  
Conference Co-chairs

## **Jeanette A. McCollum (JAM) Award Winner to Be Announced at SAV!**

Please arrive early to get a front-row seat for the keynote address to be delivered by LeDerick Horne at SharingAVision! Immediately prior to his address on Tuesday, September 27th at 10:15 a.m., we will learn the name of the person who has been selected as the Jeanette A. McCollum (JAM) award winner for 2011!

At each SAV conference, the Illinois Division of Early Childhood (IDEC) of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) presents the Jeanette A. McCollum Award to an early childhood professional, family member, student, or community member who meets the high standards of professional practice set by Dr. Jeanette A. McCollum, Professor Emerita at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Jeanette is a leader in research and personnel preparation in the field of early intervention/early childhood special education, professor emeritus at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, and has contributed significantly within Illinois and to the International Division for Early Childhood (DEC). Award nominees have made significant contributions on a state, regional, or local level which have improved or will improve the lives of young children with special needs, their families, or those who work on their behalf. Contributions have been in direct services, personnel preparation, leadership, policy development, research, advocacy, or publications and are supportive of the goals of Illinois, IDEC and International DEC.

From the nominations submitted this spring, an exceptionally worthy award winner has been chosen by the JAM committee. The winner's name has not yet been announced, so it will be a dramatic moment in which the nominee's credentials will be summarized and the award will be presented. Thanks to the following committee members for their work in selecting the winner:

Kristy Herrell, Prairie Children Preschool, Indian Prairie School District # 204  
Jennifer Loncola Walberg, Associate Professor, DePaul University  
Wu-Ying Hsieh, Assistant Professor, University of Illinois at Chicago  
LuAnn Shields, Principal (Retired), Prairie Children Preschool, Indian Prairie School District # 204

Please come and cheer on the accomplishments of the JAM award winner on Tuesday, September 27th at 10:15 a.m. just prior to the LeDerick Horne keynote.

*Submitted by Robin Miller Young, Ed.D., IDEC Past President and JAM Award Committee Chairperson*

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## **SAV is a Gateways Registry Verified Conference**

Are you planning to attend the Sharing a Vision Conference this year in Springfield? This year's Sharing a Vision Conference will be a Gateways to Opportunity Registry Verified Conference. Plan to stop by the Gateways to Opportunity table (right outside the exhibit hall) throughout the conference for the following reasons:

- To become a member of the Gateways Registry, applications are available at the Gateways Registry table. If you return the application during the conference, you'll receive a free gift.
- If you are already a Registry member, bring your Registry member card and receive a free conference survival pack.
- Before leaving the conference, come to the table to have your conference certificate scanned. The Registry will track your conference sessions and provide access to your Professional Development Record.

We look forward to seeing you at the conference! For more information about the Gateways Registry visit [www.ilgateways.com](http://www.ilgateways.com).

*Submitted by Rebecca Livengood, Marketing Manager, INCCRR*

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# **Feeding Issues in Young Children: A Brief Overview of the Feeding Team**

Stacy D. Thompson and Deborah A. Bruns

A daily activity that parents, caregivers, and early childhood professionals engage in with children is eating. ...and as everyone knows, this activity does not always go smoothly. Feeding may be more of a concern if a child is diagnosed with a disability, such as Down's syndrome. The child may not have the muscle control to effectively swallow textured foods. At other times, feeding challenges may be unexpected as when a parent tries to feed a child and runs into behavior problems which then adversely impact mealtimes. Overall growth (height, weight, and head circumference) can also be adversely affected by feeding difficulties, such as with infants diagnosed with failure to thrive (Benoit, 2000) or cleft palate (Reid, 2004; Scherer & Kaiser, 2007). Regardless of background, all children need to eat, and caregivers must strive to provide young children with warm, supportive, and nurturing feeding experiences.

Strategies to address feeding difficulties include environmental modifications; changes in meal preparation; use of adapted cutlery, plates and cups; specialized diets and supplements; behavioral interventions; and for more severe feeding issues, a feeding team is necessary. In many cases, a feeding team is necessary to develop and coordinate feeding strategies. The feeding team is specially constructed to address a child's inability to meet nutritional or caloric needs or problems related to biological processes such as swallowing (Arvedson & Brodsky, 2002; Chatoor & Macaoay, 2008). Once feeding difficulties are addressed, young children will not only improve their overall caloric intake and feeding skills, but they may demonstrate other types of developmental gains since there is a great deal of overlap in feeding challenges and issues in a child's developmental domains. In addition, while other areas of development are addressed on the Individualized Family Support Plan (IFSP) and Individualized Education Plan (IEP) (e.g., language and communication, gross motor), feeding challenges rarely are. Skills needed for a newborn to communicate hunger (e.g., crying); an older infant to assist in holding her bottle; or a toddler to finger feed are related to development as well as feeding. Feeding issues often have part of their basis in delays or difficulties in one or more developmental areas.

## **The Feeding Team**

Early intervention programs, as outlined by Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (2004), including collaboration and family centered services, emphasizes developmental outcomes for infants and toddlers including those diagnosed with a disability or developmental delay. A child's feeding team should include professionals, such as a speech and language pathologist (Lefton-Greif, 1994), an occupational therapist (Clark, Avery-Smith, Wold, Anthony, & Holm, 2007), and a behavior analyst (Linscheid, 2006; Piazza & Addison, 2007). Best practice includes a feeding team, as well as individually and developmentally appropriate techniques. There is a concomitant need to provide strategies that match child and family preferences and offer positive interactions between child and parent or caregiver. For example, the introduction of solid foods must correspond with the family's cultural beliefs and traditions (Davis-McFarland, 2008). An IFSP or IEP helps to set goals for the child by outlining skills that help meet developmental needs, are age-appropriate, and provide functional skills to assist the child in meeting environmental needs. Feeding challenges may be addressed in the IFSP or IEP, but are frequently not fully addressed.

In order to appropriately address feeding challenges, a team approach and the use of best practices across multiple disciplines are necessary. In addition to addressing feeding challenges, a team approach encompasses the preferences of the child and family, as well as promotes positive relationships between

the child and his parents and caregivers. Working with a feeding team and utilizing individualized strategies help inform a recommended practices model to address feeding challenges (Bruns & Thompson, 2010). Implementing individually and developmentally appropriate feeding strategies and more specialized interventions requires that team members collaborate and remain up-to-date on discipline-specific literature and feeding practices, including participating in training opportunities and other types of professional development.

The recommendations of a feeding team may include a variety of strategies. Sometimes, these are straight forward. Presentation is one technique that can be used to enhance the child's intake. For example, when offering a novel food, it helps to present it with favorite foods. Portions should be appropriate for the child's age so as to not overwhelm the child. However, children tend to eat more vegetables if they are offered a double serving size, but not a triple serving size (Spill, Birch, Roe, & Rolls, 2010). Developmental ability and age of the child needs to be taken into account as a toddler is less likely to use a utensil well and more likely to eat mainly finger foods.

Simple foods such as ham, carrots, apple slices, and pasta are best for most young children instead of combining them into a complex recipe, like a casserole. At two, it is very common for children to restrict their diets, eating only a few preferred items. This may be frustrating, but seems to be due to our evolutionary past when food selection for an omnivore could be hazardous (e.g., poisonous berries) (Rozin, 1977). Therefore, the literature indicates to offer new foods a number of times, at least 10-12 times before deciding that the child does not like it (Carruth, Ziegler, Gordon & Barr, 2004). Children are also more likely to try new foods when they are sharing a meal with others (Skinner, Carruth, Bounds, & Ziegler, 2002).

Another factor that influences feeding is the containers that food is served in. For example, a smaller plate or bowl is appropriate for a younger child and increases their self-feeding success. Also, a toddler should be offered a smaller cup with a valve to control the flow of liquid, but a five-year-old is more likely to prefer a larger, open mouth cup where she controls the flow rate. Today, there are many selections for adapted cutlery and spoons that provide added feeding support for young children.

In general, feeding is a complex issue tied to food, the environmental context, and the child's relationship with those who feed him. It can involve simple to rather complex solutions requiring explicit training for those involved. The more we know about typical development and developmental modifications that can be made to enhance a child's intake, the better prepared we are to address more complex feeding challenges.

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Stacy D. Thompson, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, and Deborah A. Bruns, Ph.,D., is an Associate Professor in the Department of Special Education at Southern Illinois University.

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### **Don't Miss a Chance to Win \$50 Gift Card**

Four \$50 gift cards to various vendors/exhibitors at Sharing a Vision conference will be given away in a drawing of those who attend the IDEC Meeting.

**September 27, 2011 - Capitol View Room, Crowne Plaza Hotel**

See page 7 for further information.

**Join your *IDEC* friends at Sharing A Vision  
for**

***Decadent Desserts and Conversation***

**Tuesday, September 27th at 11:45 a.m.**

**Come network with colleagues and learn how to be more involved  
in local and national early childhood efforts.**

Hear about the status of the Illinois application for Race to the Top program AND other EC Initiatives that the State of Illinois will be undertaking.



**SPECIAL GUESTS:**

- ❖ Beth Bobel, President of Illinois Council for Exceptional Children (ICEC)
- ❖ Shannon Christian, Governor's Office of Early Childhood Programs
- ❖ Cindy Zumwalt, ISBE Division Administrator, EC Education Division

**WHEN AND WHERE IS THE MEETING?**

- ❖ Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- ❖ Location: Capitol View Room, top floor, Crown Plaza Hotel

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND?**

- ❖ Conference attendees interested in conversations about current state and national early childhood topics.
- ❖ Current and prospective IDEC and DEC members

Decadent desserts will be provided. A lunch buffet will be located inside the meeting room.

**Door Prizes:** Four **\$50 gift cards** to various vendors/exhibitors at Sharing a Vision conference will be awarded!

## **ILAEYC Offers Series of Workshops**

The Illinois Association for the Education of Young Children is offering a series of professional development workshops throughout Illinois.

### **Regional Workshops**

**October 1, 2011** - John A. Logan College, Carterville

**October 29, 2011** - EasterSeals/Discovery Depot, Decatur

**November 12, 2011** - Kankakee Community College, Kankakee

#### **Behavior: Management or Mismanagement?? By Mary Wonderlick (9:30am-12:30pm)**

Behavior and classroom management are always an area of serious concern for those who are with children. Learn that many behaviors of children, seen as negative by adults, are actually not inappropriate. Behaviors represent communication, developmental stages, ability to process and/or understand and needs for facilitation and practice. Learn to understand behavior and management strategies. Learn a variety of problem solving strategies to understand and facilitate the management of the behaviors of children.

Everyone has questions and concerns such as: "I have a child who ...", "Please explain ...", "How could I ...", "What is ..." and/or "What should I ...?" Come armed with questions and looking for answers.

#### **Enhancing Children's Experiences with Nature- By Cindy Mahr and Marcia**

**Seabolt (1:30-3:30pm)**

Most people's fondest memories of early childhood include hours upon hours of unstructured playtime outdoors. How can early learning programs incorporate such nature experiences into our children's lives today? Current research shows that our children are becoming more and more detached from the natural world. Instead, they are plugged in and nature-deprived. Come explore with us as we talk about enhancing your indoor and outdoor environments to create optimal learning and growth experiences for young children. Make scientific discovery and questioning a part of the everyday for your students.

**Five CPDUs** will be offered for those participants who attend both morning and afternoon sessions.

**COST:** \$20 for ILAEYC members and \$40 for nonmembers.

Advance registration is required. (No cash and no Purchase Orders accepted.)

The registration form and payment can be faxed to [618-658-3232](tel:618-658-3232) or mailed to: Tonya Frehner, PO Box 471, Vienna, IL 62995

### **West Central Region Workshop**

**November 5, 2011 - Peoria Heights**

#### **Creativity in The Classroom - Jean Jackson and Bill Buss (9:30-11:30am)**

Workshop Description: New and experienced caregivers will enjoy this training as we explore the various ways to enhance the creative exploration of young children in our programs. Various ideas for creating art with young children as well as examples of ways to tap into children's energy will be the focus of this session.

**Two CPDUs** will be offered for those participants who attend the entire session.

**WHEN:** Saturday, November 5, 2011 (Light refreshments will be served)  
**WHERE:** Peoria Heights Grade School Cafeteria, 500 East Glen Ave., Peoria Heights, IL 61616-5108

**COST:** \$10 for ILAEYC Members and \$20 for nonmembers.  
Advance registration is required. (No cash accepted)

The registration form and payment for the Nov. 5th workshop must be received in the mail by October 21, 2011 or it can be faxed to [217-529-7738](tel:217-529-7738):  
Tonya Frehner, PO Box 471, Vienna, IL 62995

**For a registration form or more information on any of the workshops, email:**  
**Tonya Frehner @ [tonya@illinoisaeyc.org](mailto:tonya@illinoisaeyc.org)**

If you are not currently an ILAEYC member and would like to join, you can do so at  
<http://illinoisaeyc.org/applyrenew>

*Submitted by Mary Wonderlick, M.A. Learning Disabilities, a member of the ILAEYC Board and the Secretary of the IDEC Governing Board.*

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## Conferences for Parents of Children with Hearing Loss



Parents: Financial assistance may be available to help with travel, lodging and/or childcare costs.  
Professionals: CPDUs and EI credits are available.

For more information visit Hearing and Vision Early Intervention Outreach website  
[www.morgan.k12.il.us/isd/hvc/](http://www.morgan.k12.il.us/isd/hvc/)

# Save the Date

Friday • March 30, 2012 • Bloomington, IL



## Collaborating for Success

Continuing the Conversation

Gateways to Opportunity, Illinois Resource Center Early Childhood, and Illinois STARNET are pleased to announce the Gateways Statewide Higher Education Forum 2012.

**Dr. Patricia Kuhl featured Speaker—Bilingual Language Learners, Cognitive Flexibility and the Future of Education.**

Dr. Patricia K. Kuhl is the Bezos Family Foundation Endowed Chair for Early Childhood Learning, Co-Director of the UW Institute for Learning & Brain Sciences, Director of the University of Washington's NSF Science of Learning Center, and Professor of Speech and Hearing Sciences. She is internationally recognized for her research on early language and brain development. Dr. Kuhl's work has played a major role in demonstrating

how early exposure to language alters the brain. Dr. Kuhl is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the Rodin Academy, and the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters. She was invited to the White House during both the Clinton and Bush administrations to present on "Early Learning and the Brain" and "Early Cognitive Development: Ready to Read, Ready to Learn." In 1999, she co-authored *The Scientist in the Crib: Minds, Brains, and How Children Learn* (Morrow Press).

**Please mark your calendar now and a formal invitation will arrive in early 2012!**



This project is made possible with funding from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act in cooperation with the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development.



1226 Towanda Plaza | Bloomington, Illinois 61701 | Telephone: (866) 697-8278 | [www.ilgateways.com](http://www.ilgateways.com)

Gateways to Opportunity is administered through INCCRRA and funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services Bureau of Child Care and Development, the McCormick Foundation, and Grand Victoria Foundation. Previous private/public partnerships have included the W. Clement & Jessie V. Stone Foundation and the Joyce Foundation.

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### 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>

## **New Law Protects Illinois Children with Ongoing Medical Conditions**

Home/Hospital Instruction (HHI) is now a part of the Illinois School Code. HHI (codified as P.A. 97-123) provides educational services in the home or hospital to students who are **anticipated** to be out of school for two or more consecutive weeks or for an ongoing intermittent basis due to a medical condition. The law defines an “ongoing intermittent basis” as missing school at least two days at a time, multiple times during the school year such that at least 10 days total are missed.

Students who may qualify for HHI include:

- Those who suffered severe injuries
- Those who are recovering from surgery or illness
- Those who are diagnosed with a chronic illness that causes sporadic absences
- Those who have a severe disability making regular attendance difficult

HHI provides improvements to the home/hospital requirements that all Illinois school districts must follow. Previously, many school districts required children to be absent for an extended period of time before a school district might consider providing them with HHI. These amendments help families and schools prepare to address HHI needs in advance of absences to prevent gaps in educational instruction.

As under the previous law, students must receive at least one hour of instruction a day, or at least five hours per week. The new amendments require schools to begin HHI no later than five school days after receiving a doctor’s statement. Additionally, special education and related services required by a student’s IEP or 504 plan are now required to be implemented as part of HHI (unless the IEP/504 plan team determines that modifications are necessary due to the child’s condition). For example, children who receive speech therapy can now access those services as part of their HHI.

The child’s parents or guardian must initiate an HHI by submitting a statement from a doctor to the child’s school stating:

- The child’s medical condition
- Its impact on their ability to participate in education
- The anticipated duration or nature of the child’s absence from school
- 

Physicians can help patients with an ongoing medical condition by providing this statement to parents prior to a prolonged absence, or for children with special health care needs, prior to the new school year. Please note that the Chicago Public Schools have their own form that you must utilize for this process.

For more information on this bill, follow the link to the Health and Disability Advocate's website:

[http://e2ma.net/go/10632220540/3842653/108733951/3505/goto:http://www.hdadvocates.org/\\_files/HDAFiles/Press%20Room%20Materials/PR20110727\\_HomeHealthInstruction.pdf](http://e2ma.net/go/10632220540/3842653/108733951/3505/goto:http://www.hdadvocates.org/_files/HDAFiles/Press%20Room%20Materials/PR20110727_HomeHealthInstruction.pdf) .

Excerpt from the *Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics Newsletter*.

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### **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>**

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## **Functional Hearing and Vision Screening**

**A Free HVC Training Opportunity**

**October 19, 2011 - Thompson Center, Chicago**

**November 10, 2011 - Fairview Heights (site TBD)**

**February 1, 2012 - Springfield (site TBD)**

**March 14, 2012 - Batavia Library, Batavia - Co-sponsor CFC #4 (9:30 – 3:30)**

### **Description:**

In vision, participants will learn how and who to screen as well as who is at risk of vision impairments, warning signs, types of screening tools, and when/how to refer for further assessment/services. In hearing, participants will learn the types and causes of hearing loss, its impact on development, communication and language use of a screening questionnaire, when/how to screen, and when/how to refer for further assessments and services.

All sessions are from 9:00-3:00 (except for March 14)  
Please register online at [www.morgan.k12.il.us/isd/hvc](http://www.morgan.k12.il.us/isd/hvc)

**CPDU 5 credit hours**  
**EI 5 credit hours Assessment**

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## **Conferences for Parents of Children with Vision Loss**



**Southern Illinois**  
**Saturday, March 17, 2012**  
**Mt Vernon**

**Northern Illinois**  
**Saturday, April 21, 2012**  
**Rockford**

**For more information, contact**  
**Hearing and Vision Early Intervention Outreach, 877-731-8184**

*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](mailto:mahughes@illinois.edu)

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## **ICEC Fall Convention 2011**

October 21-22

Wyndham-Lisle Hotel and Executive Meeting Center

Lisle, Illinois

Register online at [www.illinoisceec.org](http://www.illinoisceec.org)





## Illinois AEYC Request for Presenters

Illinois AEYC is now accepting Requests for Presenters (RFP's) for their 2012 Growing Futures Conference. The conference will be held at the Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield, Illinois on September 20-22, 2012. The RFP's and required documentation are due by **December 1, 2011**. They must be submitted electronically to [conference@illinoisaeyc.org](mailto:conference@illinoisaeyc.org). Presenters will be notified of their status by March 2012.

To receive a copy of the RFP form, you can email [conference@illinoisaeyc.org](mailto:conference@illinoisaeyc.org) or contact:

Tonya Frehner, Director of Programs, Illinois AEYC  
993 Clocktower Drive, Suite E  
Springfield, IL 62704  
1-800-773-0369 ; 217-529-7732  
217-529-7738 [fax]  
<http://illinoisaeyc.org>

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### New! Cycles of Life: A Workshop for Preschool Teachers

November 5, 2011 at Erikson Institute  
November 12, 2011 at the Chicago Botanic Garden  
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Fee: \$150 (\$140 for Educator Members)

Grade level: PreK-2

CPDU credit: 15, Lane credit: 1, Graduate credit: 1

An additional fee for graduate credit (\$100 per credit through Aurora University and \$140 per credit through National Louis University) will be collected on the first day of the workshop.

The cycle of life is an amazing yet difficult concept to understand, especially for young children. In this workshop, learn how to help children come to an emotional understanding of caring for other living things and the natural process of loss. Through hands-on activities, singing and movement learn how to use the plant life cycle as a way to help children experience empathy, nurturing and change. This workshop is appropriate for anyone working with preschool to second graders.

Registration is available at <http://www.chicagobotanic.org/ctl/teacherprograms/fall.php>

## **ISU Addressing Needs in Early Intervention: Qualified Personnel to Become Early Intervention Providers for Babies Who Are Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

Illinois State University will be offering a graduate course of study to prepare professionals with current degrees in deaf education, speech and language pathology or audiology to work with infants/toddlers and their families. A grant from the US Department of Education, (OSERS), CFDA 84.325K, has been awarded, and applications for the second cohort are being accepted through mid-April of 2012. All courses and supervised practicum experiences will be offered tuition free to accepted students. This year-long, five course sequence of study is aimed at increasing the number of personnel qualified to provide early intervention for Illinois children who are deaf and hard of hearing. Upon completion, candidates will have earned a graduate certificate: Deaf and Hard of Hearing Listening and Spoken Language Professional from Illinois State University as well as having completed the core knowledge competency areas needed to apply for the early intervention credential in Illinois. Preference will be given to applicants who are bilingual, or from underrepresented populations, or high-need geographic areas.

The coursework will be delivered through a combination of on-site instruction, online learning, and video conferencing instruction; connecting a Chicago based cohort with a cohort from the ISU campus. The program will address the needs of existing personnel to improve their knowledge and skills in two primary areas:

1. Enhancing the auditory and spoken language skills in the child; and
2. Developing the competencies specific to working with infants, toddlers and their families

There will be three cohorts of students. The first cohort will take two courses in Summer 2011, and two courses in Summer 2012. A two semester course will be offered September through April providing students with an individualized program including hands-on experiences, and field observations. A new cohort will begin in Summer 2012 and continue the same schedule, graduating in Summer 2013 after successful completion of coursework and supervised practicum experiences.

**For more information regarding application procedures, visit the website:**

<http://www.specialeducation.ilstu.edu/certifications/dhhspecialist.shtml>

Inquiries should be addressed to Dr. Maribeth Lartz, [mnlartz@ilstu.edu](mailto:mnlartz@ilstu.edu) ; 309-438-8988 or to Tracy Meehan, [tmeehan@ilstu.edu](mailto:tmeehan@ilstu.edu); 630-336-3765

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**NAEYC 2011 Annual Conference**

Orlando, Florida

November 2-5, 2011

[www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org)

