



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

Volume 19, Issue 1

Message from the IDEC President...

Connie Shugart

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Find us on the web at

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

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,

I hope this finds everyone off to an exciting new school year. My name is Connie Shugart and I am delighted to be your 2012-2013 IDEC President. For those of you who don't know me, I started in the world of Early Childhood 30 some years ago working in private preschool and Head Start before moving to the State Early Intervention System and then to STARNET. I am currently the STARNET Regions I and III Project Coordinator.

On behalf of the IDEC Board and members I would like to thank Mojdeh Bayat for her service over the past year and a half as the IDEC President. Mojdeh will continue to guide and support the Board in her position as Past President. I would also like to welcome our new Vice President, Amy Cocorikis, to the Board.

The new IDEC Board had their first meeting in July. Among the many topics of discussion were communication and outreach. What does this mean for you? We are looking at a variety of ways to share information, including a new Facebook page that will be coming soon. We are also looking at ways to get you together for educational and networking opportunities. If you will be attending the DEC conference in Minneapolis next month, we plan to have an Illinois get together. Please watch your email for more details.

The Board would also like to encourage members to share their talents at the board level. We are looking for members to join as co-chairs on some of our committees. Please contact me at c-shugart@wiu.edu if interested.

Lastly, I would like to encourage everyone to checkout the Sharing A Vision website, sharingavision.org, for details on the 2013 conference. If you or someone you know is interested in presenting, you can find the RFP on the SAV website. Presenter applications are due by October 1st.

Sincerely,

Connie Shugart



Celebrating the Past Embracing the Future

October 3-4, 2013

Crowne Plaza, Springfield

2013 Request for Proposal Still Open!

The Sharing A Vision (SAV) Presenters' Committee is requesting proposals for presentations for the conference on October 3-4, 2013, at the Crowne Plaza, Springfield, Illinois. Workshops will be held Thursday, October 3 and Friday, October 4, 2013, and will be either 90 minutes or 2 hours duration.

Deadline for submissions: October 1, 2012

Online form and further information can be found at

www.sharingavision.org

Keynote Speakers for SAV 2013

Jim Gill, musician and author of children's music CD's and books



Kathy Buckley, comedienne and inspirational speaker



Conference is coordinated by Illinois Division for Early Childhood (IDEC)
and sponsored by ISBE, IDHS, IDEC and Illinois Head Start.

ISBE Moves Forward with KIDS



The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) website (<http://isbe.net/KIDS/default.htm>) contains the following information and has links to related resources.

The Illinois State Board of Education established a Kindergarten Readiness Stakeholder Committee in March 2010 to examine the feasibility of adopting a uniform, statewide kindergarten readiness process. The goals were to identify gaps in school readiness; provide information to drive more effective classroom instruction; and to support state and local data-driven decision-making on professional development and resource allocation. In April 2011, the committee provided a report, *A New Beginning: The Illinois Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS)*, to ISBE.

The report lists the following goals for KIDS:

- promote success of every child
- guide professional development
- support alignment of early childhood and elementary school systems
- document the important role that early childhood programs play in preparing children for elementary school
- enable the state to respond to identified needs

KIDS is envisioned as an observation-based tool to be used three times a year within the context of typically occurring activities in the classroom and across multiple developmental domains.

In October 2011, ISBE convened a Kindergarten Individual Development Survey Advisory Committee to guide the education department as it moved forward with recommendations for developing a comprehensive kindergarten readiness assessment process. Committee members include ISBE administrators, early childhood and early elementary teachers and administrators, assessment and data experts and other stakeholders.

The committee's role is to:

- advise ISBE on the selection and development of the instrument
- support implementation through professional development, research, and communications
- advise on evaluation of implementation

ISBE has selected the WestEd Center for Child and Family Studies (CCFS) as the contractor to provide services related to the development and administration of the Illinois KIDS. WestEd will subcontract with the Berkley Evaluation and Assessment Research Center, Graduate School of Education, University of California Berkley (BEAR Center). WestEd will develop KIDS by adapting the Desired Results Developmental Profile - School Readiness (DRDP-SR) to align with

the Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards, the Illinois Learning Standards for Kindergarten, the Social and Emotional Learning Standards, and the New Illinois Learning Standards Incorporating the Common Core for English Language Arts and Mathematics. More information about DRDP-SR can be found at <http://www.wested.org/desiredresults/training/>.

In June 2012 with WestEd guidance, the Illinois KIDS Advisory Group presented a Proposed Approach for Using the DRDP-SR Instrument with Illinois KIDS. A pdf of the presentation can be downloaded from the ISBE website. Twenty-eight schools districts across the state have been selected to pilot test KIDS during the 2012-13 school year.

The Illinois KIDS website (www.illinoiskids.org) is currently under construction and will be available soon with tutorials and forms for administrators, teachers, and families. Content will be in both English and Spanish.

Further information on Illinois KIDS including the committee report, PowerPoint presentation, and a recent webinar can be found at www.isbe.net/kids.



Illinois Council for Exceptional Children 2012 Convention

November 1-3, 2012

Hyatt Lisle Hotel - Lisle, Illinois

Theme: The Best of Special Education

Keynote Speakers:

Dr. Richard Van Acker, Professor, University of Illinois, Chicago

Dr. Vinni Hall, Member of the Illinois State Board of Education and Past President of ICEC

Further information and registration at www.illinoisceec.org

IDEC Member Making a Difference...

Mindy Ely



Mindy Ely, a Resource Specialist for STARNET Regions I and III, has made a significant impact on the lives of young children with visual impairments and their families in Illinois over the past nineteen years. She was recognized recently by the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired with an Illinois Distinguished Service Award. The Association honors a person each year who has been involved in the field of blindness for at least ten years. Mindy is known throughout Illinois as a visual impairment expert in early childhood.

Mindy received her formal training through Illinois State University obtaining her Bachelor's in Special Education with a certificate in the area of Visual Impairments in 1993. She worked as a Teacher for the Visually Impaired (TVI) and then as a Developmental Therapist for Vision (DTV) in the Illinois Early Intervention System. Mindy has spent the last 19 years planning and providing training and technical assistance to families and professionals on topics related to this area of specialty. Mindy worked in a unique leadership position to those working in the state as a DTV. In that role, she not only recruited potential providers, but also offered credentialed DTVs high level training and networking opportunities.

Mindy has been appointed to a number of additional leadership roles both at the state and national level. She has served on the Illinois Vision Leadership Council since 2001 and the International Blind Preschool Summit Group since 2006. She was a board member at large and then president of the Illinois chapter of the Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER). She currently serves on the National AER board.

Mindy is an involved Illinois State University Alumni and was recognized as an Honored Alumni in 2008 for her contributions to the field of Special Education. She served on their Special Education board in 1998, 2009, and 2010. Since 2005, Mindy has provided 12 hours of education during "Senior Week" to each class working to become Teachers of the Visually Impaired. Considered one of Illinois' leading experts in the area of early childhood development as it relates to vision loss, she has become a sought after speaker and consultant.

Assistive Technology Training in Early Intervention: Results of Recent Survey

Tots-n-Tech, a federally funded project studying assistive technology (AT) in early intervention programs, recently sent a survey to early intervention (EI) providers across the country. The project wanted to find out what training format provided the most useful AT information; what topics were covered; and what impact training had on EI practice. The results summarized here were published in the May 2012 issue of *Tots-n-Tech E-Newsletter*, which can be found on the Tots-n-Tech website, <http://tnt.asu.edu/>.

Out of 758 responses to the survey, only 311 were usable for the analysis, since the others either did not receive AT training or served fewer than three infants and toddlers. Respondents were from 44 states and Canada and were from a variety of disciplines. Half of the respondents indicated that they had some specialized training in AT with infants and toddlers, while 25% had “only a little” training. When asked about the children they currently serve, 60% of the EI providers reported most of their children who should be using AT actually are using it. However, 22% reported that too many of the children who should be using AT are not using it.

When asked about training attended within the past year, 78% of the respondents indicated that they attended workshops or conferences about AT. Topics included the iPad, other devices, and communication. Respondents rated the information as very helpful (51%), somewhat helpful (45%), and not very helpful (4%).

During the past year, webinars on AT were attended by 30% of the respondents. Topics included the iPad and apps, specific devices, and family-centered practice. Respondents rated the information as very helpful (53%), somewhat helpful (42%), not very helpful (2%), and not at all helpful (2%).

Other types of training reported by respondents during the past year included:

- University or college courses about AT – 9% attended
- Self-study on the Internet – 61% researched different AT topics
- Self-study with manuals and videotapes – 23% used these materials
- Formal mentoring – 14% engaged in mentoring related to AT
- Informal mentoring – 74% consulted with other team members
- Technology fairs or expos – 20% attended these

Respondents were asked how prepared they felt they were to use and recommend AT to children and families after participating in inservice training and gaining experience in their field. Twenty-three percent indicated that they felt very prepared, while 61% felt somewhat prepared, 9% not very prepared, and 4% not at all prepared. This is in sharp contrast to those who graduated from preservice programs that addressed AT. Sixty-three percent of those respondents were not very prepared to use AT with children, while only 4% felt very prepared, and 25% felt somewhat prepared. Overall confidence and preparedness increased following inservice training and experience working in the field.

When asked about the future, respondents reported that they would most likely participate in workshops (41%), and webinars (21%). The majority of respondents indicated that the AT-related skills and knowledge they would most like to obtain relates to disability specific technology (69%) and working with families (50%).

Although this data summary is based on a small percent of EI providers, the findings show how important inservice training in the form of workshops and webinars is to those serving very young children. Further information on AT training resources and references can be found in the May 2012 issue of *Tots-n-Tech E-Newsletter*.

Arizona State University & Thomas Jefferson University, AT Training Programs for Early Intervention Service Providers, *Tots-n-Tech E-Newsletter*, May 2012, <http://tnt.asu.edu/>

Technology in Early Childhood Webinar Series

A series of free webinars is being offered by the Technology in Early Childhood Center at Erikson Institute and Early Childhood Investigations.

Upcoming webinars include:

ECE Tech Trends in 2012 and Why Tech Integration Matters - Warren Buckleitner, Ph.D. from Children's Technology Review - October 10, 2012, 2:00 pm, ET

Apps and Software in ECE Classrooms: A Continuum of Teaching Tools - Kate Highfield from The Institute for Early Childhood at Macquarie University in Australia - November 14, 2012, 2:00 pm ET

Register at www.earlychildhoodwebinars.org





SMALL HANDS IN THE GARDEN

A workshop for early intervention providers and parents

**Saturday October 27, 2012
at the Chicago Botanic Garden
1000 Lake-Cook Road, Glencoe, IL**

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Fee: \$85

Grade level: Teachers of Infants – Pre-K



Join us for a fun-filled day open to anyone who works with infants and toddlers. This workshop will focus on the importance of introducing nature to our youngest explorers. Participating in hands-on learning “stations” will inspire you to incorporate nature into your daily routine. This class is designed for persons who work with infants to three-year-olds, and is adaptable for those who work with pre-K children.

**Approved by the Early Intervention Training Program for 6 Hours
(1 Hour Typical Development, 5 Hours Intervention Strategies)
Additional Credit: 7 CPDUs**

Register at <http://www.chicagobotanic.org/ctl/teacherprograms/fall.php>



Functional Hearing and Vision Screening Training

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.

October 10, 2012

Crystal Lake

**Trainers Nancy Scott and Mindy Ely
American Community Bank**

November 7, 2012

Mt. Vernon

**Trainers Nancy Scott and Jane Redmon
Mt. Vernon Municipal Building**

January 9, 2013

Springfield

**Trainers Nancy Scott and Mindy Ely
Sangamon County Department of Public Health**

March 13, 2013

Batavia

**Trainers Nancy Scott and Mindy Ely
Site TBD
*9:30 – 3:30**

All training times are 9:00 – 3:00 except * Batavia

Please register online at www.morgan.k12.il.us/isd/hveio

CPDU 5 credit hours

EI 5 credit hours Assessment

DEC's 28th Annual International Conference



On Young Children With Special Needs & Their Families

October 28-30, 2012

Hilton Minneapolis

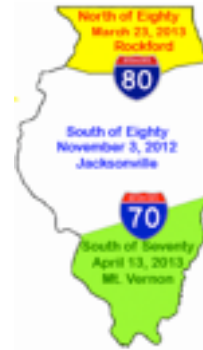
<http://www.dec-sped.org/Conference>

Conferences for Parents of Children with Hearing Loss

South of Eighty
November 3, 2012
Jacksonville

North of Eighty
March 23, 2013
Rockford

South of Seventy
April 13, 2013
Mt. Vernon



Conference topics include:

- the IEP
- Assistive Technology
- Literacy
- Sibling Issues
- Deaf Culture

CPDU and EI credits are available.

Financial assistance may be available for parents to help with travel, lodging, and childcare costs.

To register:

By phone, call toll-free 1-877-339-2686

By fax, 1-217-479-4328

Online, go to: http://morgan.k12.il.us/isd/outreach_events.html

2012 National Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference

November 7-10, 2012

Atlanta, Georgia

Registration and more information can be found at

www.naeyc.org

Impact of Practices on Outcome Indicators

The National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center, the Early Childhood Outcomes Center, and the Regional Resource Center Program released a report, *Relationship of Quality Practices to Child and Family Outcome Measurement Results*, in April 2012. The purpose of the document is to assist states in identifying ways to improve results for children and families participating in Part C services. An extensive table lists effective practices and indicates which family and/or child outcome has been impacted by the practice. Five strategies are listed to guide states in using the document to improve outcomes.

The document can be viewed or downloaded from NECTAC website:

www.nectac.org

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- Establish strong, collaborative relationships with families
- Complete challenging hands-on field experiences
- Earn your Illinois Type 04 certification (*optional*)
- Prepare to make a remarkable difference in young lives
- Complete your master's degree in about two years, on a beautiful, easy-to-access suburban campus

COME TO OUR INFORMATION SESSION: November 17, 2012
at 9:00 a.m. in the Frick Center, Elmhurst College. Reserve your space today! Call (630) 617-3300.

Contact Us!
Call (630) 617-3300 or
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