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**EITP**

EARLY INTERVENTION  
TRAINING PROGRAM

# Spring 2021 Newsletter



## Early Intervention Training Program Newsletter, Spring 2021

### News and Updates

#### ReOpen Update: Increase in In-Person Services to 20 Families starts 4/1

Following further consultation with Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), in-person EI services can be increased to no more than 20 families **beginning April 1, 2021**. For more details on the announcement, please read the [related memo from IDHS](#) (pdf).

For resources and safety tips for re-entering work environments, please visit our [Re-Entry and Safety during COVID-19 resource page](#).

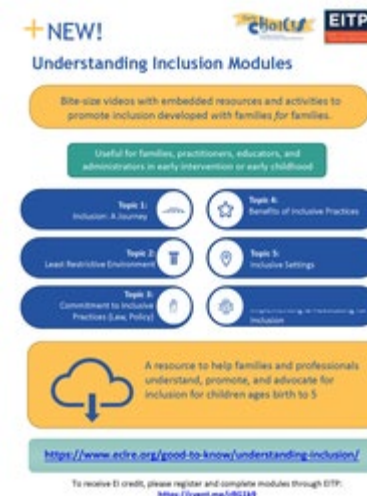
#### The Illinois Early Intervention Principles Have Been Updated!

The [Illinois Early Intervention Principles](#) (pdf) have been revised and adopted by the Illinois Interagency Council on Early Intervention (IICEI) as of January 14, 2021. The revisions reflect general updates to align with changes in the early childhood evidence base and IL's EI system and to emphasize cross-systems collaboration and communication. As you review the revised principles, you will notice strengthened language related to building caregiver capacity, family-professional partnerships, cross-disciplinary collaboration, and culturally and linguistically responsive and affirming practices. Finally, you will notice a new principle was added focused entirely on the importance of ongoing communication and collaboration among team members.

#### New Online Training - Understanding Inclusion

EITP and Early CHOICES collaborated on the development of a new online learning opportunity, [Understanding Inclusion](#). This module contains a series of bite-size videos with embedded resources and activities to help understand, promote, and advocate for inclusion for children birth to age 5 developed with families for families.

The series reviews 6 topics related to inclusion and each topic has a guide to



**+NEW!** **Understanding Inclusion Modules**

Bite-size videos with embedded resources and activities to promote inclusion developed with families for families.

Useful for families, practitioners, educators, and administrators in early intervention or early childhood.

**Topic 1:** Inclusion: A Journey **Topic 4:** Benefits of Inclusive Practices

**Topic 2:** Least Restrictive Environment **Topic 5:** Inclusive Settings

**Topic 3:** Commitment to Inclusive Practices (Law, Policy) **Topic 6:** Implementation of Inclusion

A resource to help families and professionals understand, promote, and advocate for inclusion for children ages birth to 5.

<https://www.ecire.org/good-to-know/understanding-inclusion/>

To receive E! credit, please register and complete modules through EITP: <https://event.mca360.com/>

support understanding and provide resources on the topic. Topic guides can be used as a companion tool for the learner and as a stand-alone tool to help facilitate discussions and extended learning opportunities.

**To receive EI credit for this series**, you must [register](#) and complete the training through [Moodle](#).

Please share [Understanding Inclusion](#) or the related [infographic \(pdf\)](#) as a resource with families, practitioners, service coordinators, educators, and administrators in early intervention or early childhood!

## Reassuring Referral Sources that EI is Open

The pandemic has adversely affected the number of referrals made to Early Intervention.

Referral sources, such as clinics or physician offices, have an important partnership with EI by bringing awareness of EI to families and sharing the needs of families with EI.

To help promote the EI program to referral sources, a [Referral Source Infographic](#) (pdf) was developed by the Chicago CFC offices.

This resource provides a brief summary of what is involved in the referral process during the COVID-19 pandemic to help educate referral sources that EI is still open and accepting referrals.

It also includes important links that are used to make a referral or better understand the referral process.

In addition to the infographic, it may help to share with referral sources the proven benefits of EI. See [The Importance of Early Intervention for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities and Their Families](#) (pdf) from ECTA for more details on the research showing how EI benefits children and families.

The [IDHS Office Locator](#) is also a helpful tool for referral sources, which allows them to locate the CFC office or any other IDHS office a family may need! Alternatively, referral sources could call (800) 843-6154 for information on where to send referrals.



**IL EARLY INTERVENTION IS OPEN AND ACCEPTING REFERRALS DURING COVID**

**MAKING A REFERRAL**

Local Child and Family Connections Offices

- 800-323-GROW
- Office Locator: <https://go.illinois.edu/CFC/office>
- Standardized Referral Form: <https://www.illinois.gov/CFC/StaticCollectionDocuments/ILRISR.pdf>

**INTAKE/EVALUATION/ASSESSMENT**

Intake/Evaluation/Assessment occur in multiple ways

- Telephone Consultation
- Live Video Visit
- Limited Face-to-Face visits

Technology Devices and Hotspots loans available: <https://www.illinois.gov/CFC/StaticCollectionDocuments/ILRISR.pdf>

**ELIGIBILITY**

Eligibility For Early Intervention in Illinois

- Medical Diagnosis (including ELEVATED BLOOD LEAD (EBL)) <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.do?item=14161> OR
- Delay (30% or greater delay in a developmental domain) <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.do?item=14161> OR
- At Risk <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.do?item=14161>

**ONGOING SERVICES & SUPPORTS**

16 Early Intervention Services & Supports provided via:

- Telephone Consultation
- Live Video Visit
- Limited Face-to-Face Visits
- Hybrid Approach

**ANYONE CAN MAKE A REFERRAL TO EARLY INTERVENTION**

# Resources You Can Use

## Resources for Families from the EI Clearinghouse

The [Illinois Early Intervention Clearinghouse](#) has added the following new tipsheets:



- [Ways to Implement Early Intervention During COVID-19](#) also available in Spanish/[Español](#).
- [Everyday Early Intervention: Indoor Fun](#) also available in Spanish/[Español](#).

The EI Clearinghouse also offers an **EI Home Pack** containing selected [tip sheets on Everyday EI and/or Teletherapy \(Live Video Visits\)](#) with ideas about how infants and toddlers can keep learning during play and daily routines directly to families! To have the EI Home Pack shipped to a home, please fill out their [EI Home Pack Request online form](#).

If families prefer non-paper versions of the tipsheets, the [Everyday EI during Coronavirus](#) resource page has everything in the EI Home Pack and more!

## Videos for Families with FAQs on Live Video Visits

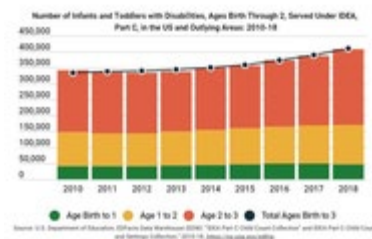
The EI Clearinghouse also recently published the following videos on FAQs related to Live Video Visits.



- [What are Live Video Visits?](#)
- [What Technology do I Need for Live Video Visits?](#)
- [What if I do not have the needed technology and/or internet capabilities?](#)
- [What can I expect during the Live Video Visit?](#)
- [How do I choose whether Live Video Visits are right for my family?](#)

## OSEP Data on Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities

The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) offers [OSEP Fast Facts](#), which publishes data collected from states for the US Department of Education about infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities who receive EI services, special education, or related services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). OSEP Fast Facts is an ongoing effort to display data from the 12 data collections authorized under IDEA Section 618 into **graphic, visual representations** with the intent to present data collections authorized under IDEA Section 618 quickly and clearly.



[Fast Fact: Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities](#) takes a closer look at what OSEP data tells us about the birth to

age 3 population, based on IDEA Section 618 data on Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities who receive EI services under IDEA Part C, including Part C child count, settings, and exiting data collections.

## Inhale. Exhale...Feel Better

One of the best and most inexpensive ways to cope with stress is to practice simple breathing exercises. Being mindful of our breathing can help us reduce our heart rates, increase our lung function, clear our minds, and reduce anxiety!



This list of [10 Breathing Techniques](#) offers a menu of breathing exercises to try and each can be done within a few minutes! Some of the breathing exercises incorporate yoga breathing practices too, like Sitali Breath and Lion's Breathe. **Pro tip:** Practicing Lion's Breathe along with a child will likely result in giggles for additional stress relief!

This recent [viral video of a big brother giving breathing reminders to help soothe his little brother](#) (source: Twitter, @Ashleyoutloud) is a beautiful example of using breathing exercises to calm the chaos and how these simple techniques are great tools for kids.



## Service Coordinator Corner

*The role of the Service Coordinator is critical in EI. There are many Illinois and national initiatives underway. Here are updates and resources related to your work:*

### Illinois Service Coordination Initiatives

- **Statewide and Regional Activities** - EITP continues to participate in monthly Regional CFC Support

Meetings which have led to new ideas, shared resources, cross-regional collaboration, and development of new tools and resources.

- [IL SC Forum](#) - Special thanks to our IL SC Forum Leaders **Lovice Brinkman (CFC 15)**, **Alanda Lockhart (CFC 10)**, and **Joanna Townsend-Gatson (CFC 9)** for planning and facilitating our interactive discussion on building relationships with families and peers. [The next quarterly meeting is on May 12, 2021, at 10:00 am](#). Service coordinators and those who support them at the local level are welcome to join our community!
- [IL SC Stakeholder Poster](#) (video) - EITP along with **Jennifer Litchfield (CFC 7)**, an IL SC Stakeholder Group Member, shared this short video highlighting the findings of the IL SC Stakeholder Survey at the Division for Early Childhood (DEC) Virtual International Conference in January 2021.

## National SC Initiatives

- [Knowledge & Skills for Service Coordinators \(KSSC\)](#): New tools and resources connected to the KSSC are continually developed by the [Division for Early Childhood Service Coordination Community of Practice \(DEC SC CoP\)](#). If you missed the webinar in December that provided an overview of the KSSC, the [archived recording and associated resources](#) shared during the event, including a [KSSC Self-Assessment tool](#) and a [KSSC PowerPoint Template](#) that can be used to teach service coordinators and staff about the KSSC. These can be found on the [DEC SC CoP](#) website.
- **Web-Discussion on April 20th from 1-2pm central: [DEC/ITCA Joint Position Statement: Service Coordination in Early Intervention](#)** - Join members of the writing team (including EITP Assistant Director Maria Kastanis) to learn about the new [Joint Position Statement on Service Coordination from DEC and the Infant Toddler Coordinators Association \(ITCA\)](#). The team will share how the Position Statement was developed, provide opportunities to explore the contents of the statement, and discuss how it can be used by states and local programs.

## Resources

- **[Call to Action!](#)** from the [Early Intervention Strategies For Success Blog](#) highlights what YOU can do in relation to the [Service Coordination and Early Intervention – DEC/ITCA Position Statement](#).
- [EI On the Fly Podcasts](#) recently hosted a 5-part series on **Teaming and Collaboration** and Sarah Nichols from EITP was the guest featured in [Episode 5 “Help One Another Learn and Grow”](#)!

## Join the Conversation!

Register for the [Illinois Service Coordinator \(IL SC\) Forum](#) to join our next meeting on Wednesday, May 12, 2021 from 10:00-11:15 am (central)! Current SCs in Illinois, and those who prepare them, can visit the [online workspace](#) or [contact Sarah Nichols](#) to learn more about this community.

# State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) Update

The Leadership Teams are continuing to provide support to those who are directly interacting with families providing opportunities for knowledge and skill growth, while also creating a safe place for reflecting on challenges. The focus on family engagement continues, despite many of the planned activities looking a bit

different. In addition to the Leadership Team activities, we are piloting a practice fidelity tool. We will use this feedback to further refine the tool and develop a user guide.


We are also preparing the report that we must submit to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) by April 1st. A draft will be sent to stakeholders prior to submission to solicit their input. The report will look a bit different this year as we are using the template provided by OSEP for the first time.


As this work continues, we remain committed to stakeholder input. If you have comments/concerns, please [email Chelsea Guillen](#).

## Upcoming Events

EITP will not be hosting face-to-face events until further notice, which is in line with [University](#) and [IDHS Early Intervention guidelines regarding COVID-19](#). **EITP is continually monitoring the guidance, is preparing for an eventual return to some in-person opportunities, and will keep registrants updated as new information becomes available.**

- To view online trainings sponsored by EITP, please visit [EITP Online Events page](#).
- To learn more about videos approved for EI credit, please visit our [Video Credit Requests page](#).
- To view upcoming events that are eligible for EI credit from other entities (non-EITP events), please visit the [Non-EITP Events Calendar](#).

Date	Event and Registration Link	Location
4/6/21	<a href="#">New to EI Forum</a> - A monthly online meeting with the EI partners for new early interventionist to ask questions to get clarification, guidance, or support	<a href="#">Online - Zoom</a>
4/8/21	<a href="#">Virtual Online System Overview One Day Follow-Up</a>	Online - Zoom
4/14/21	<a href="#">Strategies for Supporting Caregiver-Child Interactions That Enhance Development</a>	Online - MFLN
4/14/21	<a href="#">Transition from Early Intervention to Early Childhood Services: Roles and Responsibilities</a>	Online - StarNet
4/15/21 & 4/22/21	<a href="#">Learning to Eat in the Toddler Years (Part 1 &amp; 2)</a> - both sessions are required	Online - Zoom
4/16/21	 <a href="#">Virtual Hawaii Early Learning Profile (HELP) Overview</a> *Global Assessment Training*	Online - Zoom
4/16/21	<a href="#">Transition from Early Intervention to Early Childhood Services: Roles and Responsibilities</a>	Online - StarNet
4/26/21	<a href="#">Transition from Early Intervention to Early Childhood Services: Roles and Responsibilities</a>	Online - StarNet
5/3/21	<a href="#">Virtual Online System Overview One Day Follow-Up</a>	Online -

		Zoom
5/4/21	<a href="#">New to EI Forum</a> - A monthly online meeting with the EI partners for new early interventionist to ask questions to get clarification, guidance, or support	<a href="#">Online - Zoom</a>
5/21/21	<a href="#">Virtual Online System Overview One Day Follow-Up</a>	Online - Zoom
6/1/21	<a href="#">New to EI Forum</a> - A monthly online meeting with the EI partners for new early interventionist to ask questions to get clarification, guidance, or support	<a href="#">Online - Zoom</a>
6/3/21	 <a href="#">Virtual Hawaii Early Learning Profile (HELP) Overview</a> *Global Assessment Training*	Online - Zoom
6/9/21	<a href="#">Virtual Online System Overview One Day Follow-Up</a>	Online - Zoom
6/10/21	<a href="#">Ideas for Implementing Triadic Strategies: Putting it into Action!</a>	Online - MFLN
6/21/21	<a href="#">Virtual Online System Overview One Day Follow-Up</a>	Online - Zoom



Indicates events that are approved by [Gateways](#) (the Illinois professional development system for child care professionals).

## READ MORE ABOUT



## Central Billing Office | Monitoring | EI Central Directory

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