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# EITP

EARLY INTERVENTION  
TRAINING PROGRAM

## Summer 2021 Newsletter



## Early Intervention Training Program Newsletter, Summer 2021

### News and Updates

#### EI Updated Service Delivery Guidelines

Following further consultation with IDPH, the IDHS Bureau of Early Intervention (EI) recently released [updated EI service delivery guidelines](#) (pdf) that went into effect on June 23, 2021.

#### Key Takeaways:

- **The service delivery method must remain a team (family/caregiver and EI provider) discussion** that considers the options available and potential risk factors to the family and provider. It is anticipated that in-person service delivery will now be standard practice with exceptions related to team member risk factors/preferences. It is recommended that interventionists who are fully vaccinated support families requesting in-person services.
- **With the move to [Phase 5](#), there are no longer limits on the number of families that can be seen in-person by any individual EI Provider.** Families may have more than one provider in the home (dependent on family consent and comfort level). Individuals in the home should continue to wear masks indoors and if uncertain about the vaccination status of team members. Teams should consider conducting in-person visits outdoors or in well ventilated areas to the maximum extent possible. As always, team members should continue to utilize good handwashing practices and sanitize items that are used across homes before each use.
- **Minimize the risk of spreading the virus because children under age 3 are not yet eligible for vaccination**, so EVERY family visited has at least one unvaccinated person to potentially spread the virus. Please see the [guidelines](#) (pdf) for additional details on minimizing risk to providers and families.

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

# Congratulations to our CFC Conference Award Winners!

It's hard to imagine where we'd all be without the hard work of the individuals from our Child and Family Connections (CFCs)! In recognition of that dedication, perseverance, and diligence, CFC personnel were nominated for and won awards at the 2021 Child & Family Connections Conferences held virtually in April. (One winner was selected for each conference, North and South).



Due to the extraordinary circumstances of a global pandemic, this year's award ceremony featured "CFC Super Hero Awards" in addition to our typical award categories to honor the superheroes we've always known the individuals at our CFCs to be!

To view the list of recipients recognized for their service, contributions, resourcefulness, and collaborative spirit, please visit our [2021 CFC Conference Award Winners List](#).

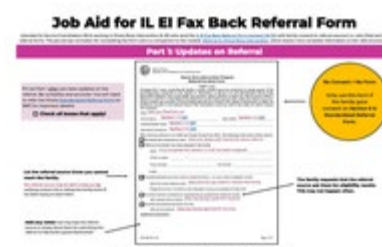
# New Training on Referral to EI

EITP is offering a new online, asynchronous training, [Referral to Illinois Early Intervention](#), that provides an overview of the Illinois Early Intervention (IL EI) referral process and the 3 pathways for children and families to become eligible for IL EI services. Throughout the training, the importance of ensuring strong communication with referral sources and primary care providers throughout the referral process is highlighted as a key factor. You must [register](#) and complete in our Moodle system to earn 1 hour of EI credit in the area of Working with Families.



# Resources You Can Use from the New Referral Training

- [Public Version - Referral to Illinois Early Intervention](#) – an open, interactive resource for sharing with referral sources, community partners, and anyone interested in referrals, that includes the same information as the Referral to Illinois Early Intervention training (no registration needed and no credit given for viewing).
- [Fax Back Referral Form Job Aid](#) (pdf) – a job aid intended to support SCs in completing the Fax Back Referral Form.



# New Training on Assessing Infant Motor Development

[Pathways](#) in collaboration with EITP has developed a new online, asynchronous training, [Infant Development: Alignment, Core, and Motor \(IDACM\)](#). This training offers 2 contact hours of EI Credit (1 hour in the Assessment AND 1 hour in the Area of Typical Child Development).



This course is meant to share an understanding of typical motor development at 1, 2, 3, and 4 months of age. At each month, you will see an infant examined in 5 different positions highlighting typical expectations for baby in relation to specific areas of the body, head, trunk, upper extremities, and lower extremities. The importance of placing a baby in each position and the goals of development in that position is explained. This course provides information to help guide you through the sessions, questions to ask, and tips on getting the caregiver involved.

To register or learn more, visit the [IDACM registration page](#).

## Telehealth Legislation in Illinois

On 5/31/21 both Houses in Illinois have passed [House Bill HB3308](#) aimed at amending the Illinois Insurance Code and expanding the use, access, and coverage of telehealth services in the state. The bill is expected to be signed by the Governor, and the Illinois General Assembly has the [bill status](#) and [full text](#) of HB3308 available to learn more.

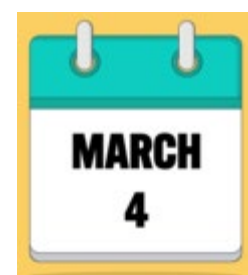


## Updated CFC Office Listing

The [CFC Office Listing](#) (pdf) was updated in May 2021 and can be easily shared or downloaded using the link <https://go.illinois.edu/CFClisting>. For additional listings related to CFCs, please visit the [CFC resource page](#).

## The Empowering Professionals Conference Returns in 2022

The Empowering Professionals Conference sponsored by [EITP](#), [Easter Seals of Metro Chicago \(CFCs 8 and 12\)](#), and the [Illinois Developmental Therapy Association \(IDTA\)](#) will be back in 2022!



Please save the date for the conference - **Friday, March 4, 2022.**

Check the [EITP Events page](#) for registration and more details later this year!

# Resources You Can Use

## Understanding the Illinois Early Intervention System

Learn more about Illinois Early Intervention System in [this interactive graphic](#) that highlights the key stakeholders that work together to support children and families in Illinois Early Intervention, by exploring an overview of who they are, what they do, where to find their key resources, and how to contact them.



Developed by EITP and the Illinois Interagency Council on Early Intervention (IICEI) Communications Workgroup, [Illinois Early Intervention Systems of Support](#) is a great reference for anyone new to early intervention or for anyone who wants a refresher! A [printable version Illinois EI System of](#)

[Support \(pdf\)](#) is also available!

## "Understanding Inclusion" is Now Available in Spanish

EITP and Early CHOICES is pleased to announce that our new online learning opportunity, [Understanding Inclusion](#), is now available in Spanish!

The 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 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.

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



## Developmentally Appropriate Practice (DAP) Toolkit from IEL

The [Illinois Early Learning Project \(IEL\)](#) has developed a [developmentally appropriate practices \(DAP\) toolkit](#) designed to assist families, early interventionists, educators, and caregivers as they support young children. The resources include links to IEL items, along with materials and articles from other reliable sources.



The [DAP toolkit](#) promotes the development (social, emotional, physical, health, cognitive) and general learning of each child served, and will help early interventionists, educators, higher education faculty, and professional development providers become familiar with

- DAP and child development and standards,
- DAP and learning through play,
- DAP and infant-toddlers,
- DAP and preschoolers, and
- DAP for higher education faculty and professional development providers.

See IEL's Q&A [Developmentally Appropriate Practice 101](#) for a quick overview of developmentally appropriate practice.

## New Tip Sheet: Outdoor Fun

The [Illinois Early Intervention Clearinghouse](#) has added a new tip sheet, [Everyday Early Intervention: Outdoor Fun \(Spanish\)](#), which includes lots of suggestions on how outdoor play can help families develop their child's fine



motor skills, gross motor skills, social-emotional skills, and language development.

## 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 the development of new tools and resources. Recent topics of interest across regions include child find, referrals from DCFS, and planning for a return to the office and in-person visits.
- **IL SC Forum** - Special thanks to **Katie Nicoloff** (CFC 21) for facilitating an informative discussion on virtual meeting facilitation during this quarter's meeting. Service coordinators and those who support them at the local level are welcome to join our community! For more information and resources view the [IL SC Forum Bulletin - Spring 2021 \(pdf\)](#).
- **Evaluation of the IL SC Communities** - Over the summer EITP will conduct an evaluation of the Regional CFC Support Meetings and the IL SC Forum in an effort to understand what community of practice members value and to help plan for future meetings and activities. Community members are encouraged to respond and provide feedback about their experiences and interests when the survey is distributed.

### National SC Initiatives

- [National SC Leaders Group](#) is a new subgroup being formed from the [Division for Early Childhood Service Coordination Community of Practice \(DEC SC CoP\)](#) for members who share an interest and practices around training, leading, and preparing SCs. EITP's Sarah Nichols will support DEC SC CoP facilitators as a co-lead of this new subgroup while it is in its forming stages!
  - Check out this [National SC Initiative Timeline Overview \(pdf\)](#) for a history of all that has been accomplished between 2016-2021 to advance service coordination in EI.

### Resources

- [Knowledge and Skills for Service Coordinators \(KSSC\) Self-Assessment Tool](#) - Curious about your strengths and areas you might need support with? Download and complete this KSSC self-assessment to reflect on ways you can further your knowledge and skills as a service coordinator. The assessment can be done independently or with a peer or supervisor.
- [Archived Web-Discussion on the DEC/ITCA Joint Position Statement: Service Coordination in Early](#)



### [Intervention](#) (held on 4/20/21)

- **[Checklist and Systems for Organizing Service Coordination Activities](#)** - resources on the [EITP SC Resource page](#) to help service coordinators stay on top of the multiple activities completed on a daily, weekly, and annual basis.
- **Transition Tools from CFC 7** -The following tools were developed by CFC 7 to help quickly determine dates and schedules for the transition of children from EI to ECSE:
  - **[Transition-Discharge Schedule \(pdf\)](#)**- printable schedule to view all birth dates and see the exact dates for when the discharge meeting (120 days) and transition meeting (90 days) are due
  - **[Transition Calculator \(Excel file\)](#)**- enter the child's birthday into the calculator to get the exact dates for meetings from the Transition-Discharge Schedule; printable schedule is included in this file.
  - **[Transition Timetable \(pdf\)](#)** - visual aid to identify the month when transition needs to begin (i.e. 6 months before the 3rd birthday) for a child based on their birth month

## Join the Conversation!

Join the [Illinois Service Coordinator \(IL SC\) Forum](#) to receive periodic emails, announcements, and updates on service coordination happenings in IL and across the nation. IL SC Forum community members are invited to [register](#) for our next meeting on **Wednesday, August 11, 2021 from 10:00-11:15 am!** 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 continue to provide assistance to those who are directly supporting families by providing opportunities for knowledge and skill growth while also creating a safe place for reflecting on challenges. Leadership team members are piloting a practice fidelity tool. The feedback from those piloting the tool will be used for further refinements.

The report that is due to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) detailing our progress was submitted in a timely fashion. Though we weren't able to use the template provided by OSEP, we did utilize the same format to acquaint ourselves with what will be needed in the future. We anticipate bringing stakeholders together in the coming fiscal year to assist with planning.


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](#).

**New events are posted regularly! Check our [EITP Events](#) page for updates!**

Date	Event and Registration Link	Location
7/9/21	<a href="#">Virtual Online System Overview One Day Follow-Up</a>	Online - Zoom
7/12/21	<a href="#">EITP Self-Care Cafe (July)</a> : A monthly mindfulness and self-care check-in	Online - Zoom
7/16/21	<a href="#">Virtual Painting A Picture: Writing Effective Early Intervention Reports</a>	Online - Zoom
7/19/21	<a href="#">Virtual Online System Overview One Day Follow-Up</a>	Online - Zoom
7/21/21	<a href="#">Everyday Gross Motor Play: Back to Sleep Tummy to Play</a>	Online - Zoom
7/26/21	 <a href="#">Virtual Hawaii Early Learning Profile (HELP) Overview</a> *Global Assessment training*	Online - Zoom
7/28/21	<a href="#">Everyday Gross Motor Play: Positioning for Routines, Play, and Exploration</a>	Online - Zoom
8/4/21	<a href="#">Everyday Gross Motor Play: The Great Outdoors</a>	Online - Zoom
8/9/21	<a href="#">EITP Self-Care Cafe (August)</a> : A monthly mindfulness and self-care check-in	Online - Zoom



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

**READ MORE ABOUT**



## EI Central Billing Office | EI Technical Assistance & Monitoring | EI Central Directory

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