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# Fall 2021 Newsletter



## Early Intervention Training Program Newsletter, Fall 2021

### Coaching is How We Support Families - Regardless of Where We Are!

Illinois' Early Intervention (EI) system continues to provide EI services in multiple formats – in-person, Live Video Visits (LVV), or telephone consultation. Many of us have returned to meeting with and providing services in-person to Illinois families. For some of us, transitioning to coaching families and leading team meetings through LVV was challenging. It may have taken months to get used to the new way of interacting and providing services. Others may have been using the coaching model for years and found that transitioning to Zoom sessions was a breeze.

**Many Early Interventionists found so much value in a coaching relationship through video**— no matter how or when we started using the coaching model. **Our parents became empowered**, took the lead, and learned how to advocate for their child and their family...**our kiddos made remarkable progress**...we were able to **observe so many more family routines and activities**, oftentimes with multiple family members who otherwise would not have been able to participate... our parents and their little ones **grew more and more confident** in their abilities... and many of our families were even able to **reduce the frequency of services** since they **realized the value of their expertise and “doing” the intervention between sessions** in countless natural learning opportunities throughout their day!

Despite how it started, for some of us the video visits are slowing down and we may be increasing our in-person meetings and sessions. This is a great time to reflect on all that we have learned from coaching our families through live video so we can continue to strengthen these coaching strategies for all of our interactions with families.

As we reflect, let's first recall our “why”, or our purpose as EI professionals: **We support families!** Early Interventionists support the child's development through the interactions, relationships, daily routines, and natural learning opportunities of both the child and their families or caregivers. Next, we are reminded of the shared vision and principles of Early Intervention: Early Intervention builds upon and provides supports and resources to assist family members and caregivers to enhance children's learning and development through everyday learning opportunities. And of course, recommended practice in EI includes Family-Centered Practices that are responsive to each family's unique circumstances, enhance the parent's existing skills as they build new skills, and promote

collaboration between families and professionals working together to foster the family's competence and the child's development.

Although our meetings and visits may look a bit different than live video visits, we can, and should, continue to use the foundational elements of our coaching practice (Joint Planning, Observation, Action, Reflection, and Feedback) and apply them to our in-person sessions as we Check-In, Dig Deep and Dive In with the family. So, as we get back to in-person visits, we keep in mind that the family is the most important member of our EI team!

When we partner with and support the family using a coaching practice, we encourage increased parental involvement, strengthen the parent-professional relationship, and honor the parent's expertise and knowledge of their child so that together, we can reach our goal: **To promote their child's optimal development and to facilitate their child's participation in family and community activities.**

## Related Resources

[Common Misperceptions about Coaching in Early Intervention by Rush and Sheldon](#) (pdf)

[Tips and Techniques for Effective Coaching Interactions by Rush and Sheldon](#) (pdf)

[Coaching: A Brave New World for PTs and OTs in Early Intervention](#) by [MSDE DEI/SES](#)

[EITP Resources Page for our Coaching Webinar Series](#) includes the following and much more:

- [Coaching Plan](#) (pdf, form)
- [The Coaching Partnership](#) (pdf)
- [Tips for Joint Planning with Families](#) (pdf)
- [10 Strategies for Engaging Parents Not Children During Tele-Visits](#) (from VEIPD)
- [Printable Coaching Characteristics Graphic](#) (pdf)

## News and Updates



[Click image for data on LVV in Illinois](#)

### What We Learned from EI personnel about Live Video Visits

In April 2020, the Illinois Early Intervention (EI) Program instituted the use of Live Video Visits (i.e., telehealth) to support families during the COVID-19 pandemic. Just over a year later, the Illinois Early Intervention Training Program (EITP) sent out the annual EI expertise and needs assessment to gain an understanding of the professional development needs of Illinois EI personnel. The assessment included questions focused on coaching, family-centered practices, and Live Video Visits (LVV). There were 2170 respondents from a variety of EI disciplines and regions across the state.

The following resource is a summary of what we learned from EI personnel about their strengths, as well as the benefits of and supports needed for implementing LVV: [Results of the 2021 EI Expertise and Needs](#)

[Assessment - Live Video Visits](#) (pdf)

## New EITP Training with Robin McWilliam, PhD

EITP in collaboration with Robin McWilliam, PhD, and Cami Stevenson, MS, presents a new online, live series [Promoting Children's Functioning in Childcare/Classrooms through Collaborative Consultation - CC2CC](#) that explores the process and content of CC2CC. This training offers 8 contact hours of EI Credit (8 hours in the area of Intervention).

This series is presented in 2-hour sessions (9:00 am-11:00 am central) on 4 different days, and requires **all 4 days of attendance on 9/29, 10/13, 10/27, & 11/10**.

Whether visiting classrooms in person or working with teachers remotely, the job of the early childhood special educator or related service provider is to build the caregiver's capacity. Our time "in the classroom" is not enough to make a difference in the child's learning, but it is enough to make a difference in the teacher's confidence and competence in addressing the special needs of children. The concept of building the caregiver's capacity shows that this is an ongoing, frequent (e.g., weekly), collaborative relationship. Visitors to the classroom or the teacher online must have something to offer and a collaborative way to offer it. To register or learn more, visit the [CC2CC registration page](#).



## 2021 Illinois Developmental Therapy Association Conference

The IDTA is proud to announce our 6th annual conference exclusively for the developmental therapists in the field. This will be an excellent opportunity to connect with your peers, gain tips to further your practice, honor the achievements of Developmental Therapists, and celebrate all that has been accomplished in our field.

The theme this year is "**The Role of The DT: What To Do, When, Why, and How: Exploring Executive Function & Using Recommended Practices to Support Your Work With Families**". The keynote speaker is **Dr. Cesar Ochoa**, MD, MPH, Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics Division Chief, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Rush University Medical Center.

You can earn **up to 4.25 hours of Illinois EI credit** awarded in the areas of Working with Families (WWF), Typical Child Development (CD), and/or Intervention (INT) depending on what sessions attended. To register and learn more, please visit the [IDTA conference registration page](#).



## Sharing a Vision Conference is Virtual - October 7 & 8

The [Sharing a Vision Conference](#) is virtual and will be held on (Thursday and Friday) October 7 & 8, 2021. The theme is ***Everyone Belongs: Creating Equitable and Inclusive Spaces for All***. The virtual conference will still have all of the things you know and love about SAV:



- A fabulous keynote speaker: **José- Luis Orozco**
- Knowledgeable presenters offering a mix of pre-recorded and live sessions
- **[Schedule at a Glance \(pdf\)](#)** - Check it out to find your favorite presenters and topics!
- Networking with colleagues
- An exhibit hall and Innovation Showcase!

This exceptional conference is planned to meet the needs of early childhood professionals and families in the state and is coordinated by the Illinois Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children, in collaboration with the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Human Services. To learn more or register, visit the **[Sharing a Vision Conference](#)** registration page.

## Equity Symposium Kicks off at Sharing a Vision

Early Intervention Training Program (EITP), Early CHOICES, Illinois STAR NET, Early Childhood Professional Learning, Illinois Division of Early Childhood, Illinois Association for the Education of Young Children (IL-AEYC), and The Pyramid Model Consortium are proud to co-sponsor this online learning series that will explore priorities to dismantle systemic racism in our early care and education systems and will deepen understanding of our role in effecting change that moves us forward in realizing equity in access, experiences, and outcomes for all children and families.

The Equity Symposium will start at the **[Sharing a Vision Conference](#)** on **Friday, October 8, 2021**.

- If you would like to attend this first session live, please **[register and pay to attend SAV Conference](#)**.
- If you cannot attend the SAV conference, please **[register to view a recorded version](#)** (free) after the conference.
- Check the **[EITP Events page](#)** for registration and more details on the upcoming sessions after the conference!

In the meantime, download the **[Equity Symposium flyer \(pdf\)](#)** to save the dates or learn more about the upcoming sessions!



Equity Series Flyer (pdf)

## Resources You Can Use

## Staying Current on IDHS Updates and COVID Related Information

EITP, Provider Connections, and the Early Intervention Clearinghouse regularly update our websites with information and resources about COVID-19 as it becomes available so that providers can fulfill the obligation of their Payee Agreement to be aware of updated information on any changes to service delivery.



For EITP, you can find resources to support you, your work, and the families you serve by visiting the [COVID-19 Resources portal](#), which is found on the header of all our EITP pages and contains the following pages:

- [COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\) Information and Resources](#)
- [Live Video Visits \(Telehealth\) Resources](#)
- [IDHS Weekly Updates](#)
- [Re-Entry and Safety during COVID-19 Resources](#)

The [Provider Connections COVID-19 Information and Resources](#) page is the first place to find updates from IDHS! Typically, every Friday afternoon you can find the IDHS weekly update, if available, posted here!

The EI Clearinghouse has developed many resources for families that support working on EI outcomes during play and daily routines in this unique environment of COVID. Their newly created resources along with IDHS updates and curated resources from the field can be found on their homepage at [Everyday Early Intervention during Coronavirus](#).

## New Tip Sheet: Encouraging Speech Development

The [Illinois Early Intervention Clearinghouse](#) has added a new tip sheet, [Everyday Early Intervention: Encouraging Speech Development](#) (also [available in Spanish](#)), which includes lots of suggestions on how to inspire children's speech and language development through the use of books, games, songs, and everyday routines.



## 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** - A CoP Evaluation was conducted on the IL SC Forum and the Regional CFC Support Meetings. Participants from both communities report gaining more support in their role/have others to turn to for help and having access to resources they would not otherwise have easily attained. Regional CFC Support members also report the following:



- **Applied Value:**

- 74% applied information/skills acquired

- 64% used documents and resources shared

- **Reframing Value:**

- 59% reframing or changing the way that I have always done something

- 56% changing the way I think about or approach my work

- 52% setting new goals for myself and my work

- **IL SC Forum** - Special thanks to **Anna Kreller** (CFC 25) and **Alanda Lockhart** (CFC 10) for facilitating an informative discussion “*Partnering with Families as they Promote their Child’s Social Development During and After the Pandemic.*” 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 - Summer 2021 \(pdf\)](#).

## National SC Initiatives

- **National SC Leaders Group** (a subgroup of the DEC SC CoP) has a small group working together to plan/prepare for a DEC SC CoP web conversation on Time Management and Organizational Skills. The date of this event has yet to be confirmed and they are hoping it will be before the end of the calendar year in November/December.
- **New DEC SC Committee** - The DEC Board has approved the formation of a new committee on service coordination. The target launch date of this committee has not been determined yet but it should happen by June/July 2022. A formal call for SC Committee members will go out to the membership at large once the SC Committee chairs are appointed by the DEC Executive Office.

## Resources

- **Systems of Supports For Service Coordinators** (pdf) - Learn about all the systems of support for service coordinators including opportunities for community, professional development, recognition and leadership development, and additional resources.
- **DRAFT SC Theory of Action** (pdf) - EITP has been working on a strategic plan to ensure we utilize all the recently developed resources on service coordination ([DEC/ITCA Joint Position Statement on SC in EI](#), [Knowledge and Skills for Service Coordinators \(KSSC\)](#), and IL SC Stakeholder Survey Summary) to support service coordinators and those who lead them in Illinois. Targeted feedback on the *DRAFT SC Theory of Action* will be gathered from IL SC Stakeholders in the coming months.

## 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, November 10, 2021 from 10:00-11:15 am** (central) and our topic

will be the **SC Theory of Action!** 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. We are still awaiting feedback from those piloting the fidelity tool so that can be used for further refinements.

We recently received feedback on the report submitted to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) detailing our progress. A number of strengths were noted including, a rapid transition to live video visits to mitigate service disruptions, strong support from local leadership teams, improving data quality, continued progress toward identified goals, and meaningful stakeholder engagement. Future submissions will need to address plans for scale-up, for improved data quality, and for revisions to baseline and targets. We anticipate bringing stakeholders together this 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
Anytime	<a href="#">EITP Online Trainings in Moodle</a>	Online - <a href="#">Moodle</a>
9/23/21	 <a href="#">Supporting the Social Emotional Development of Young Children: Ideas, Strategies, and Resources</a>	Online - MFLN

9/27/21	<b>Nature, Nurture, and the Growing Brain Gone Virtual: Brain Basics &amp; Factors Affecting Brain Growth and Development</b> (This is recommended prerequisite for other events in series)	Online - Zoom
9/29/21	<b>Virtual Online System Overview One Day Follow-up (SOFU)</b>	Online - Zoom
9/29/21	<b>Promoting Children's Functioning in Childcare/Classrooms through Collaborative Consultation - CC2CC</b> *All 4 days are required (9/29, 10/13, 10/27, & 11/10)*	Online - Zoom
10/1/21	<b>Illinois Developmental Therapy Association (IDTA) 6th Annual Conference</b>	Online - IDTA
10/5/21	<b>New to EI Forum</b> - intended for new early interventionists within the first 18 months on the job	Online - Zoom
10/11/21	<b>EITP Self-Care Café (Oct.):</b> A monthly mindfulness and self-care check-in	Online - Zoom
10/13/21	<b>Transition from Early Intervention to Early Childhood Services: Roles and Responsibilities</b>	Online - STAR NET
10/14/21	<b>Nature, Nurture, and the Growing Brain Gone Virtual: Cognition and Executive Function</b>	Online - Zoom
10/18/21	<b>Family Assessment for Service Coordinators</b> (This training is intended for CFC Service Coordinators only)	Online - Zoom
10/20/21	<b>Virtual Online System Overview One Day Follow-up (SOFU)</b>	Online - Zoom
10/21/21	<b>Mealtime Connections: Using Parent Coaching to Support Families at the Table</b>	Online - Zoom
10/21/21	<b>The Grey Areas of Eligibility for EI: Factors to Consider when Supporting Families</b>	Online - Zoom
10/27/21	<b>Nature, Nurture, and the Growing Brain Gone Virtual: Social-Emotional Development</b>	Online - Zoom
10/27/21	<b>Transition from Early Intervention to Early Childhood Services: Roles and Responsibilities</b>	Online - STAR NET
10/29/21	<b>What is Inclusion and the Least Restrictive Environment All About?</b>	Online - Zoom
11/1/21	<b>Service Coordination &amp; Family Assessment - Setting the Stage for Functional IFSP Development</b> *All 5 days are required (11/1, 11/15, 11/29, 12/6 & 12/17)*	Online - Zoom
11/2/21	<b>New to EI Forum</b> - intended for new early interventionists within the first 18 months on the job	Online - Zoom
11/3/21	<b>Nature, Nurture, and the Growing Brain Gone Virtual: Brain Basics &amp; Factors Affecting Brain Growth and Development</b> (This is recommended prerequisite for other events in series)	Online - Zoom
11/5/21	<b>Inclusive Practices and the Benefits of Inclusion</b>	Online - Zoom
11/5/21	<b>Virtual Painting a Picture: Writing Effective Early Intervention Reports</b>	Online - Zoom
11/12/21	<b>Virtual Online System Overview One Day Follow-up (SOFU)</b>	Online -



		Zoom
11/17/21	 <b>Virtual Hawaii Early Learning Profile (HELP) Overview *Global Assessment Training*</b>	Online - Zoom
11/17/21	<b>Transition from Early Intervention to Early Childhood Services: Roles and Responsibilities</b>	Online - STAR NET
11/17/21	 <b>Using Children's Books and Storytelling to Connect Literacy and Social Emotional Development</b>	Online - MFLN
11/19/21	<b>Transition from Early Intervention to Early Childhood Services: Roles and Responsibilities</b>	Online - STAR NET
11/22/21	<b>Nature, Nurture, and the Growing Brain Gone Virtual: Understanding Behavior</b>	Online - Zoom
12/3/21	<b>Implementing and Advocating for Inclusion</b>	Online - Zoom
12/7/21	<b>New to EI Forum</b> - intended for new early interventionists within the first 18 months on the job	Online - Zoom
12/8/21	<b>Virtual Online System Overview One Day Follow-up (SOFU)</b>	Online - Zoom
12/15/21	<b>Nature, Nurture, and the Growing Brain Gone Virtual: Everyday Play</b>	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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