



Early Intervention

<http://eiclearinghouse.org>

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Looking for Information on Autism?

The Illinois Early Intervention (EI) Clearinghouse is proud to announce the addition of the Autism Collection to our free lending library. The EI Clearinghouse now has more than 600 books, DVDs, and journals on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) to lend to Illinois residents. These materials are high quality, timely, and parent friendly. You can find a range of materials—from introductions to ASD to information on specific therapies, social-emotional development, and more. You can browse the library collection at <http://eiclearinghouse.org/library.html>. Directions for borrowing materials are on the Web site, or you can call us at 877-275-3227.

Materials in the collection address children of all ages, adolescents, and adults. We hope that families can use the books and videos in the collection to better support their children in everyday activities. These materials are also available to professionals, who can use them to enhance the services they provide to families, as well as for their own professional development.

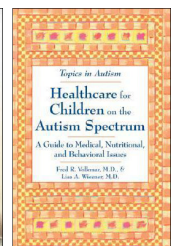
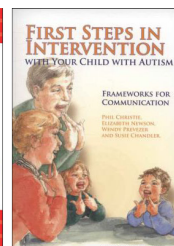
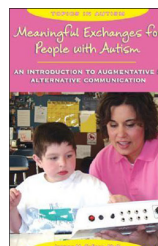
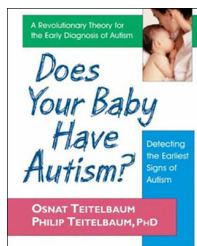
The EI Clearinghouse now has more than 600 books, DVDs, and journals on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) to lend.

We have partnered with The Autism Program of Illinois (TAP) to evaluate the collection and identify additional resources. TAP is an organization made up of five training centers located around Illinois. These training centers provide services and supports for children who have been diagnosed with ASD and their families. For more information on TAP, visit their Web site at <http://www.theautismprogram.org>.

Logan Moore, Librarian

IN THIS ISSUE:

Looking for Information on Autism?	1
.....	
Family Fee Payment	2
.....	
Child & Family Connections	2
.....	
Resources on the Family's Role in Assessment	3
.....	
Illinois Calendar	4
.....	



Family Fee Payment Address Change

The Early Intervention Family Fee payment mailing address changed on July 1, 2010. Most June and July 2010 Family Fee payments were forwarded to the new address, but some payments were returned to the sender by the U.S. Post Office. If your payment was returned to you, please resend the payment to the address listed below as soon as possible. If your payment was not returned to you, but is not reflected in your most recent Family Fee Invoice, please contact the Early Intervention Central Billing Office at 1-800-634-8540.

Please mail Early Intervention Family Fee payments to
Early Intervention
P.O. Box 88726
Chicago, IL 60680-1726



Child and Family Connections

What is Child and Family Connections?

Child and Family Connections (CFC) is a family's first stop for questions about Early Intervention (EI) Program services. This agency organizes EI services and supports families until their children are 3 years old. CFC offices are located across Illinois.

What can Child and Family Connections do for you?

Child and Family Connections offices arrange for children under the age of 3 to have evaluations and assessments at no cost to families. If a child qualifies for services, the family has an active part in creating an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). CFC coordinates all services in the IFSP to support children and their families.

Services that children may qualify for include assistive technology, audiology, developmental therapy, family training and support, health consultation, nursing, nutrition, occupational therapy, physical therapy, service coordination, psychological, social work, speech-language therapy, transportation, and vision services.

Who works for Child and Family Connections?

Service coordinators work with children, their families, and service providers to make sure that IFSPs are being followed. The service coordinator contacts the family monthly and the IFSP team every 6 months, helping the family access needed services and keeping detailed records at the CFC office. Service coordination is free for families receiving EI services.

Parent liaisons can help families navigate the EI system. They are parents of children with disabilities who have been through the EI system. They can provide families with information about their child's diagnosis, assist in locating EI resources, connect them with other parents, and help with a child's transition from EI services to a school or community program when he or she turns 3.

For the number of the CFC office in your area, please call 1-800-323-4769.



**Child and
Family Connections**
The sooner we start, the farther they'll go.



Assessing Your Child

Frequent assessments help you and the rest of the Early Intervention (EI) team to understand your child's changing strengths, needs, interests, and skills. The Illinois EI Program promotes a team approach, with an equal partnership between families and providers. You know your child better than anyone else! You and the rest of your team will assess your child's development over time. Frequent assessments help your team plan and develop EI services that respect your culture and values.



Did You Know That You Assess Your Child All the Time?

You notice what he is trying to do and what he does easily. You know what he likes and doesn't like. You probably know how your child learns best and when he may need help. You observe and respond to your child's interests, needs, and abilities all the time—at home, at the park, and at the grocery store! And because your baby or toddler is growing rapidly, the other team members need to hear from you on a regular basis. Have your child's routines changed? What do you think is important for your child to learn *now*?

Assessments Can Be Informal or Formal.


- Assessments can be informal. The EI team relies on your observations of your child during family routines such as play time, bath time, and dinner time. You may be asked to describe what you see. Or you may use a checklist to track your child's strengths and new skills.
- Assessments can be formal as well. Your team may use assessment tools or instruments to measure your child's abilities and compare them against what most children do at your child's age.

Your Point of View Is *Very Important*.

The other team members need to know your concerns about your child's development. Is it time for your baby to crawl? Do you think it's time for your toddler to use a spoon? Do you think it is time to start potty training?

Assessment Is Ongoing.

Families have differing goals for their children. They also have differing expectations about when milestones should be met. By being an active partner in the team that observes and assesses your child, you assure that the team focuses on important outcomes that are meaningful to your family. Frequent assessments help everyone see how well the services are helping your child.

 For more information on assessing your child, see the Illinois Early Intervention Clearinghouse Web site at <http://eiclearinghouse.org>.

Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Illinois Department of Human Services, Bureau of Early Intervention.



La evaluación de su hijo



Las evaluaciones frecuentes ayudan a usted y a los demás miembros del equipo de Intervención Temprana (E.I. por sus siglas en inglés) a comprender los cambios en los talentos, necesidades, intereses y habilidades de su hijo. El Programa de E.I. de Illinois fomenta la colaboración de equipos, en que las familias y los proveedores de servicios son socios iguales. ¡Usted conoce a su hijo mejor que nadie más! Junto con el resto de su equipo, usted podrá analizar el desarrollo de su hijo a través del tiempo. Las evaluaciones frecuentes ayudan al equipo a planear y desarrollar servicios de E.I. que respeten la cultura y los valores de usted.

¿Sabía usted que evalúa a su hijo todo el tiempo?

Usted nota lo que el niño intenta hacer y lo que hace fácilmente, lo que le gusta y lo que no. A lo mejor usted sabe cómo su hijo aprende mejor y cuándo necesita alguna ayuda. Observa y responde a los intereses, necesidades y habilidades de su hijo todo el tiempo; en casa, en el parque y en el supermercado. Y como su bebé o niño pequeño está creciendo rápidamente, los demás miembros del equipo necesitan escuchar regularmente sus comentarios. ¿Han cambiado las rutinas de su hijo? ¿Qué le parece importante que el niño aprenda ahora?

Las evaluaciones pueden ser formales o informales.

- Las evaluaciones pueden realizarse de manera informal. El equipo de E.I. cuenta con las observaciones de usted acerca de las rutinas familiares de su hijo, como el juego, el baño y la cena. Puede que le pidan describir lo que observa; o usted podría usar una lista de chequeo para llevar la cuenta de los puntos fuertes y las habilidades nuevas de su hijo.
- Las evaluaciones también pueden ser formales. Su equipo puede usar documentos, o instrumentos, de evaluación para medir las habilidades de su hijo y compararlas con lo que hacen la mayoría de los niños de la misma edad.

El punto de vista de usted es *muy* importante.

Los demás miembros del equipo necesitan conocer las preocupaciones que usted tenga acerca del desarrollo de su hijo. ¿Es buen momento para que su bebé aprenda a andar a gatas? Si el niño tiene uno o dos años, ¿cree que ya es hora de enseñarlo a usar una cuchara, o de empezar a entrenarlo a dejar de usar pañales?

La evaluación es continua.

Las familias tienen diversas metas para sus hijos. También tienen expectativas diferentes acerca de cuándo se deben alcanzar ciertos hitos del desarrollo. Colaborando activamente con el equipo que observa y evalúa a su hijo, usted asegurará que el equipo se enfoque en resultados importantes que sean significativos para su familia. Las evaluaciones frecuentes ayudan a todos a ver cuánto los servicios han ayudado a su hijo.

Para más información sobre la evaluación de su hijo, vea el sitio de Internet del Centro de Información sobre la Intervención Temprana de Illinois en <http://eicclearinghouse.org>.

Los hallazgos, opiniones, conclusiones y recomendaciones expresados en esta publicación son los del (de los) autor(es) y no necesariamente reflejan los puntos de vista de la Oficina de Intervención Temprana del Departamento de Servicios Humanos de Illinois.



Resources on the Family's Role in Assessment

The following books, articles, and videos are available from the Early Intervention Clearinghouse. Request them through your local public library, email us through the Clearinghouse Web site at <http://eiclearinghouse.org>, or call us at 877-275-3227. Visit our Web site to find more resources on assessment in EI.

Books

The Early Intervention Guidebook for Families and Professionals: Partnering for Success. Bonnie Keilty. New York: Teachers College Press, 2010. (Call # WS 350.6 K27e 2010).

Keilty explains what early intervention looks like and how families can best partner with professionals so that young children can learn, grow, and thrive. The book includes a chapter on assessment and planning, outlining how parents and professionals can work together throughout the process.

Authentic Assessment for Early Childhood Intervention: Best Practices. Stephen J. Bagnato. New York: Guilford Press, 2007. (Call # WS 105.5 .E8 B147 2007).

This book discusses assessment in early intervention and early childhood special education, including evaluations of early development, severe disabilities, cognitive functioning, and school readiness.

Videos

Successfully Parenting Your Baby with Special Needs. 62-minute VHS and DVD. Edvantage Media, 1999. (Call # WS 107.5 .R5 .S942 1999)

This video introduces parents to early intervention, including



the referral and evaluation process and how best to partner with professionals involved in their child's services.

Individualized Family Service Plan: Bri, Her Family, and Early Intervention. 78-minute DVD. S.I. (Call # HQ 784. H3 .I53)

Produced by the Illinois Department of Human Services and the Illinois Early Intervention Training Program, this video presents an example of a meeting during which families and professionals develop an individualized family service plan.

Articles

Moving from Assessment Information to IFSPs: Guidelines for a Family-Centered Process. Lee Ann Jung & Jennifer Grisham-Brown. (2006). *Young Exceptional Children*, 9(2), 2-11.

This article shows how information gathered in the assessment process is used to develop goals for young children and families.

Strategies for Achieving: Family-Driven Assessment and Intervention Planning. Harriet A. Boone & Elizabeth Crais. (1999). *Young Exceptional Children*, 3(1), 2-11.

This article describes how to introduce a family to the early intervention system and involve them in the assessment process.

Web Resources

Tips for Surviving Child Developmental Assessment

Zero to Three provides this brief handout for parents, explaining the assessment process and providing tips for their involvement.

<http://www.zerotothree.org/child-development/mental-health-screening-assessment/tips-for-surviving-child-developmental-assessment.html>

It Takes a Village: Logan's Story

Logan's story describes how his parents and professionals worked together as a team to develop goals. The story of Logan, who had several developmental delays, is told using video and audio clips as well as text.

http://www.beachcenter.org/resource_library/real_story.aspx?intResourceID=2464&Type=story

Authentic Assessment in Early Intervention

In this online video, a physical therapist discusses authentic assessment practices, such as observation and collaborating with families.

http://www.cde.state.co.us/media/ResultsMatter/RM Series/AuthenticAssessInEI_SA.asp

Illinois Early Intervention Clearinghouse

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Illinois Calendar

December 3, 2010

Chicago

*Transitioning Children from Early Intervention to Early Childhood
Special Education*

Contact: STARNET Region V, <http://www.starnetchicago.org>

January 28, 2011

Oak Brook

11th Annual ISTAC/Project CHOICES LRE Conference

Contact: Project CHOICES, <http://www.projectchoices.org/professional-learning/lre-institute.aspx>

February 26, 2011

Rockford

North of Eighty: Conference for Parents of Children with Hearing Loss

Contact: Illinois School for the Deaf
http://morgan.k12.il.us/isd/outreach_events.html

February 26, 2011

Mt. Vernon

Family Conference/Sib Shop

Contact: STARNET Region IV, <http://roe.stclair.k12.il.us/starnet>

March 4-5, 2011

Edwardsville

2011 Piecing It All Together Conference

Contact: National Alliance on Mental Illness, <http://il.nami.org>

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