Coaching Kids of All Abilities to Explore and Play
Presenter: Meg Bracco Liebreich, PT
EI Credit: 1.0 Intervention & .5 Assessment
From birth, babies and children learn about the world by using their bodies to observe and explore. They need many movement opportunities to become proficient movers and explorers, but some children need extra help to explore and play. In this session, participants will learn fun, practical, family-friendly strategies to support and optimize young children’s development. The use of toys, props and other materials that can usually be found at home or in the community will be highlighted. Attendees will leave the session with a few new tools in their “toolbox” to support children in moving and growing, whether through baby steps or by leaps and bounds!

Digging Deeper into the Language of Infants, Toddlers and Young Children
Presenter: Michael Trout
EI Credit: 1.0 Assessment, .5 Intervention
This workshop will provide participants an opportunity to delve deeper into the morning keynote principles, in a smaller group setting. Using one or more case studies, participants will observe young children to see if, together, we can discern what an infant, toddler or young child is trying to say to us by way of his most articulate language system: behavior. Participants will have the opportunity to consider implications for assessment and/or intervention.

Do You See What I See?: Understanding Vision Development in Young Children
Presenter: Dr. Jill Ingelse, OD
EI Credit: .75 Typical Development, .75 Atypical Development
Dr. Jill Ingelse, OD, a pediatric optometrist and an Early Intervention Provider for vision, will provide an overview of basic eye anatomy, normal and abnormal visual development, and common vision issues in the birth-3 age group. Warning signs that all early interventionists should be aware of will be reviewed. Participants will have the opportunity to view a video of an early intervention eye exam as well as gain insights into interpreting a vision report from a doctor, and understanding visual treatment options.

Making the Most of Your Time With Children and Families: Fun and Engaging Ideas to Promote Child Development
Presenter: Tweety Yates, Ph.D.
EI Credit: .75 Intervention & .75 Typical Child Development
We only have a short period of time with young children and their families, so let’s make the most of it! This session will focus on fun and engaging ideas, strategies and resources for supporting child development through parent-child interactions and daily routines and activities. Ideas across developmental areas will be shared!

Movement: Not Just In the Service Of Gross Motor Development
Presenter: Jennifer Rosinia, Ph.D., OTR/L
EI Credit: .75 Intervention & .75 Typical Child Development
There is more to movement than meets the eye! There is an ongoing, reciprocal and intimate connection between movement and all areas of a child development. We know that prenatal movement is an indicator of growth, development and health. And, that before they can talk, babies communicate through their movements. Observing the ways in which infants and toddlers manipulate and move objects allows us to understand what and how they are thinking. But, did you know that neuroscience research has found that movement improves attention and motivation? Did you know that movement has also been found to improve memory and learning? Like Miracle Grow for the brain, movement is not just in the service of gross motor development any more. Come dig a little deeper with me in our understanding of movement.
Empowering Professionals 2013 Breakout Session Descriptions

**Situational Awareness in Early Intervention**
Presenter: Evan Gregg
EI Credit: 1.5 Working with Families
In order to support families and young children, Early Interventionists must feel and be safe when visiting families. This session is designed for professionals who are or will be working with families in home and other community locations. Key considerations for safety will be discussed including strategies for arranging your physical space, considerations for approaching unfamiliar homes or other environments, and awareness of surroundings. Additionally, the most commonly overlooked safety concerns will be examined and discussed.

**What is the Routines Based Interview & What Does It Mean to Me?**
Presenter: Christine Davis
EI Credit: 1.5 Working with Families
Illinois service coordinators are conducting the Routines Based Interview with families during the intake process. This new emphasis on family assessment has implications at all levels of the system. As a provider, you may be asking yourself: Now What? What do I do with this information? How can I integrate it into my work? This session includes an overview of federal and state guidelines, as well as explores how early interventionists can begin to integrate the information gained from the RBI into their work & discusses the importance of embedding intervention into already established family activities and routines.

**What’s Going on in Early Intervention? A National Look at Current Initiatives & A Glimpse into the Future**
Presenter: Bonnie Keilty, Ph.D.
EI Credit: 1.5 Working with Families
The field of early intervention is always evolving – on the local, state, and national levels. In this session, participants will have an opportunity to learn about current national trends and initiatives in Early Intervention research, recommended practices, and policies, and identify their implications to Early Intervention work in Illinois. Reflections about the effects of these current initiatives on future opportunities and next steps in the Early Intervention field will be shared and discussed. These topics will be explored in both early intervention specifically as well as larger early childhood initiatives and the upcoming reauthorization of IDEA in which early intervention sits.

**Who are you calling difficult? Providers, Families and the Dance of EI Services**
Presenter: Tina Copeland, MSW
EI Credit: 1.0 Intervention & .5 Assessment
In this session participants will pull apart the tangle of issues around “difficult to reach or engage families”. Additionally, the issue of power in professional relationships with families will be explored. Practical strategies and tools for engaging and staying connected with families as you do the important and sometimes difficult work of supporting families will be reviewed and discussed.