

Early Intervention Training News

Administered by the United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Chicago and
Funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services Bureau

How To Reach US Phone

708.444.8460
ext. 23

Toll Free:
866.509.3867

Fax
708.444.8470

EI Website
www.illinoiseittraining.org

Address
7550 W.
183rd Street
Tinley Park, IL
60477

How to Reach

**Provider
Connections**
Phone: 800.701.0995

**Bureau of
Early Intervention**
217.782.1981

EI Regional Conferences now 2 full days

The Early Intervention Training Program is slating five Regional Conferences between November and June. A registration form is on page 5-6 of this newsletter. Conference dates are:

Nov. 3-4, 2003
Chicago Heights
Jan. 13-14, 2004
Quincy
March 2-3, 2004
Peoria
May 25-26, 2004
Crystal Lake
June 16-17, 2004
Mt. Vernon

The regional conferences have been extended to two full days. The additional afternoon sessions on day two will be more interactive and have a focus on problem solving.

Another new feature is that the EI Training Program is inviting Early Intervention parents to attend the confer-

ences so they can benefit from the information and resources that are shared.

"Our first Regional Conference in Mt. Vernon was very successful, yet we also received many comments from participants who wanted two full days of workshops," explained Ted Burke, EI Training Program director.

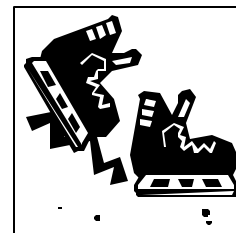
"Our training team decided that the additional sessions on day two should be interactive, with videos and case studies, as well as offer participants the opportunity to come with questions and then let the group brainstorm suggestions."

Each regional conference will offer a selection of three-hour sessions in the morning and afternoon on day one, followed by one-hour question/answer sessions on Credentialing and Billing/Insurance. There will also be at least one full-day

session on day one, including the required Evaluation/Assessment training. Day Two of the conference includes a selection of three-hour sessions in the morning and two-hour sessions after lunch. The day two problem-solving sessions will focus on topics such as *Service Coordination: From Intake to Outcomes; The IFSP Team Meeting: Effective Practice and Problem Solving and How Families can Make EI Work For Them.*

The attendance fee for each Regional Conference is \$25, which includes continental breakfast and lunch on both days. Parents whose children are receiving EI services can apply to the EIPALS program for a stipend to pay the registration cost.

Register early to reserve



**your
spot.**

Website users have the edge

Log on to our website at www.illinoiseittraining.org and with a click or two of your mouse you'll find just about anything you ever wanted to know about Early Intervention in Illinois. We've made a few changes to our website making it easier to

navigate and added a few links providing access to even more early intervention and EI related information and resources.

With a closer look at our home page you will find a direct link to the STAR NET/Project Apples Video

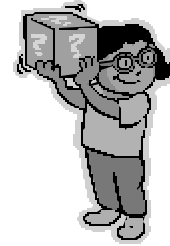
Library and access to selected videos appropriate for EI credentialing credit. A direct link to the United Cerebral Palsy's Infinitec Durable Medical Equipment library can also be made from the home page.

(cont. p.3)



Program Director's Notes

By Ted Burke



Thinking Outside The Box

Welcome to the first newsletter of FY04. This past year proved to be a successful one. We hope to build on this success in the upcoming year to better meet the needs of providers in the field. Here are just a few of our accomplishments from last year:

- ◆ Provided 172 workshops statewide which were attended by 5,255 participants.
- ◆ Developed the EI Training website, www.illinoiseittraining.org, which averages 60,000 requests per month.
- ◆ Co-sponsored and/or provided EI credentialing hours for 568 additional training events held by other entities (e.g. Universities, STAR NET, Illinois Medical Diagnostic Network, Head Start, Hearing and Vision Connections, individual Child & Family Connection office, Local Interagency Councils, Ounce of Prevention, Hospitals and State Provider Associations).
- ◆ Issued 237 certificates to individuals for activities meeting continuing professional education standards for early intervention.

Focus for the Future

The EI Training Program is looking at ways to bring additional trainings to areas of the state in the upcoming fiscal year. The Regional Conference in Mt. Vernon during the summer was very successful. We are scheduling five additional conferences through June of 2004. Participants who attend a conference can earn up to 12 hours of ongoing professional development credit.

Our training also program hopes to provide more opportunities in the upcoming year. An EI Training Advisory Group was organized and has identified a number of pediatric based training opportunities that can be offered statewide. Our agenda for this fiscal year also includes the following goals:

- ◆ Continue to produce training videos for dissemination via the web.
- ◆ Examine alternate methods to deliver trainings to the growing number of EI providers such as videophone and web based training.
- ◆ Distribute training needs assessment statewide.
- ◆ Collaborate with new and current partners to provide accessible training opportunities for all providers and parents in the EI system.

Is assistive technology really important for young children?

Many of the skills learned in life begin in infancy: AT can help infants and toddlers with disabilities learn many of these crucial skills. In fact, with assistive technology, they can usually learn the same things that nondisabled children learn at the same age, only in a different way. Communication skills at this age are especially important because most of what an infant or toddler learns is through interacting with other people, especially family members and other primary caregivers.

Sometimes parents are reluctant to begin using an AT device because they believe it will discourage their child from learning important skills. However, the opposite may be true. Research has shown that using AT devices, especially augmentative communication devices may actually encourage a child to increase communication efforts and skills. It is important to remember that the earlier a child is taught to use an AT device, the more easily a child will accept and use it.

Assistive technology is also important because expectations for a child increase as those around them learn to say, "This is what the baby can do, with supports," instead of, "This is what the baby can't do." With assistive technology, parents learn that the dreams they had for their child don't necessarily end when he or she is diagnosed with a disability.

Source: Families and Advocates Partnership for Education, PACER Center

The Edge (cont.)

This library is designed as an exchange network in which medical equipment can be obtained or donated.

Working your way through the seven menu options listed on the left of the home page, you'll find access to our most current training calendar of events as well as to other EI resources. At the top of the menu selection is the training calendar. A click here takes you to eight categorical options developed to make it easier for you to find what you are looking for.

With the exception of the 'View All Events' category, the categories are pretty self-explanatory and will take

you to everything we have currently scheduled in that particular category. 'View All Events' brings up all training events scheduled in the current month. You will need to scroll through the successive months, listed under the header on the page, and select a month to view all training events scheduled in a particular month.

A new addition to the menu options is "Trainings Requested and Approved for EI Credit." This feature brings you to categorical options as in the 'EI Training Calendar' selection. Here you'll find an alphabetical listing of training workshops and courses that have been submitted to us and approved for EI credit.

The 'Links' option at the bottom of the list offers links to DHS-Illinois Bureau of Early Intervention where cur-

rent EI Rule and Policy is posted in full. Provider Connections can also be accessed through this option with all of the appropriate credentialing forms and paperwork available to download for your use.

Tools approved for EI assessments are posted on the 'Assessment Tools' link and 'Answers to Your Credentialing Questions' connects you to an easy-to-read table of early intervention credentialing requirements that reflect the changes made in Rule 500 earlier this year.

We hope that these changes allow more of you to become frequent users of our website. Easier access to our training events and an immediate time-response to your online registration give frequent website users the advantage to the latest Illinois Early Intervention events and resources.

About that edge

If you have been an EI provider for over a year you just might be tired of hearing Training Program, and DHS Bureau of Early Intervention reminders about checking the websites for updates and new information on EI services, policies and trainings.

But I don't like computers or the Internet."



Providers who don't take advantage of the free internet resources, support and information may find the EI world is passing them by....



Here are some updates you may have missed.....



New EI Address

The EI Bureau has a new website address: You can reach them at www.dhs.state.il.us/ei

Concerned about HIPAA ?

There is a letter from Janet Gully explaining business associate agreement for compliance with HIPAA (dated 5/20/03) on the DHS website.

Changes in Billing?

The codes that providers use when billing the EI Central billing Office will be changed to standard codes beginning Oct. 16, 2003. That information is on the DHS website as well.

More Insurance/Billing Questions

The EI Bureau recently posted a wonderful "What If" document on the DHS website that might just help you with your billing problems.

What about credentialing?

You are in luck. Provider Connections

recently developed an informative chart about credentialing. The link to that document is on the EI Training Program website.

Looking for training dates?

The EI Training Program's website. You can even register online. Trainings are added weekly, so that site is a must.

Check the websites at least once a week for updates. And if you aren't sure how to maneuver the EI Training Program's website, read the article that starts on page 1 and 3.

Please call us

Many of the workshops offered by the EI training program fill up quickly. Providers are then put onto a waiting list and called if there are openings. If you cannot attend a training you are registered for, call the **EI Training Program**
708.444.8460, ext. 23,
toll free 866.509.3867
 so we can fill your spot.



Outside the Box, cont.

What is “Informed Clinical Opinion”

Informed Clinical Opinion means:

- ◆ An opinion made by practitioners qualified to evaluate the child’s five developmental domains.
- ◆ An opinion that is based on multiple sources of qualitative and quantitative information about the child’s development.
- ◆ An opinion that also is based on conversations among parents, service coordinators and the multi-disciplinary team members who were a part of the evaluation process accompanied by a

written explanation that documents a disability or delay.

What are some tips for putting the IFSP in Motion?

- ◆ View implementation as the beginning of the process, rather than the end.
- ◆ The planning piece is critical – the better the planning, the fewer problems with implementation.
- ◆ Be sure that everyone knows who will do what, when, where and how.

- ◆ Make a list of what has to happen right away to set the wheels in motion and be sure that all steps are addressed.
- ◆ Make sure that everything on the IFSP gets put in place.
- ◆ Check back with the family early and often in the beginning to make sure that things are happening as planned.

Source: Colorado Early Intervention Program



One who climbs mountains to seek out answers....

Will find that it would have been a much easier journey if they had traveled via

www.illinoiseittraining.org

Illinois Early Intervention Training Program
 c/o UCP of Greater Chicago
 7550 W. 183rd Street
 Tinley Park, IL 60477

**NONPROFIT
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 TINLEY PARK, IL
 PERMIT 321**

*Don't forget
 our website*
www.illinoiseittraining.org



Registration Form for EI Regional Conferences

Bringing knowledge and information to you

The Early Intervention Training Program is offering 5 regional conferences across the state. Each of the conferences will include two full days of workshops and a question/answer session on the first day. Participants will receive EI contact hours for the sessions they attend, including the question/answer sessions. An attendance fee of \$25.00 will be charged participants attending one OR both days of each conference. Parents who have children receiving EI services can apply to the EIPALS program for a stipend to pay the participation cost. For information on the stipend contact Joan Debelak at 708.444.8460, or 866.509.3867.

Watch the EI Training website for updated information on the regional conferences. You can mail or fax your registration form. If you fax the form please mail your \$25 check as soon as possible.

Conference Dates

Nov. 3-4, 2003	Chicago Heights (South Cook County)
January 13-14, 2004	Quincy
March 2-3, 2004	Peoria
May 25-26, 2004	Crystal Lake
June 16-17, 2004	Mt. Vernon

Conference Topics

The conferences will offer sessions that relate to the following areas:

- ◆ Working With Families Who Have Children With Autism
- ◆ Genetic Disorders in Young Children
- ◆ Neurological Challenges in Young Children
- ◆ Assistive Technology in Early Intervention
- ◆ Evaluation/Assessment (the full-day required session for EI providers)
- ◆ Sensory Techniques With Young Children
- ◆ Down Syndrome
- ◆ Writing Family-Centered Functional Outcomes
- ◆ Visual Strategies
- ◆ Service Coordination: From Intake to Outcomes
- ◆ Effective Practice and Problem Solving for the IFSP Team Meeting
- ◆ Families in Early Intervention
- ◆ Q/A Session on Billing and Insurance
- ◆ Q/A Session on Credentialing

Conference Schedule

The conference will begin at 8:30 a.m. each day with registration and continental breakfast. Participants will have a choice of three-hour breakout sessions in the morning and afternoon. There will also be a full-day Evaluation/Assessment training. Lunch is provided. Questions/Answer sessions will be held from 4:45 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Day 1. Day 2 of the conference offers a choice of three-hour breakout sessions in the morning and two-hour breakouts in the afternoon.

To Register

Pre-registration is required if you plan to attend one or both days of a Regional Conference. Participants will be mailed information on area hotels with their confirmation notice.

EI Regional Conference Registration Form

Please check which Regional Conference you plan to attend

- Chicago Heights, Nov. 3-4, 03 3-4 Quincy, Jan. 13-14,04 Peoria, March 2-3 (dates pending)
- Crystal Lake, May 25-26, 04 Mt. Vernon , June 16-17, 04

Please complete the registration form below and send

Via Mail to: Illinois Early Intervention Training Program
c/o United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Chicago
7550 West 183rd Street, Tinley Park, IL 60477

Fax to: 708.444.8470

If you are faxing your registration form you will need to send a check for \$25.00 payable to UCP of Chicago as soon as possible to secure your registration.

Name _____ Daytime Phone _____

Agency/School _____ Fax Number _____

Work Address _____ City/State Zip _____

Home Address _____ City/State Zip _____

E-Mail address _____ Current EI Credentialed Position _____

I am a parent of a child receiving EI services (check here if applies) _____

I would like to apply for a parent stipend (check here if applies) _____

**If you have questions call us at
708.444.8460, ext. 23
toll free 866.509.3867**

Keep checking the EI website
for a complete schedule of the
other Regional Conferences