

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

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Illinois EI System Begins Measuring Child Outcomes

Illinois is joining other states that receive federal Part C funds in undertaking efforts to assess the effectiveness of the supports and services provided through the Part C Early Intervention Services System.

The purpose of these efforts is to establish reliable data that will allow local, state and federal early intervention systems to make informed decisions regarding system development initiatives and demonstrate accountability and efficacy.

Three outcomes have been identified by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), which are designed to assess the extent to which young children are able to actively and successfully participate in their families and their communities. The list of outcomes and examples of how children may exhibit these skills are listed below. These are examples; not an inclusive list.

Children have positive social-emotional skills including positive social relationships

- Social relationships with children and adults
- Sensory and emotional regulation
- Trust in others
- Successful social problem-solving

Children acquire and use knowledge and skills (including early language, communication)

- Exploration of the environment
- Engagement in daily learning opportunities
- Use of increasingly complex lan-

guage

- Imaginative and creative play
- Acquisition and maintenance of attention

Children use appropriate behaviors to meet their needs

- Use of gestures, signs or words to communicate wants and needs
- Meeting with self care needs in order to participate in everyday routines and activities
- Appropriate use of objects as tools, i.e., utensils, crayons, switches
- Seeking help when necessary

How this process works

IFSP teams use current evaluation/assessment information, including formal assessment findings, parent input, observation and clinical judgment to rate each child's functioning related to these three outcomes in comparison to their same-age peers.

An entry rating will be obtained during the initial IFSP meeting and annually, thereafter. An exit rating will be completed within 90 days of transition at age three. These ratings will be captured in Cornerstone and will print as part of the Levels of Development section of the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).

Online training available

An online Child Outcome training module for providers and other stakeholders is

[See Outcomes Page 2](#)

Outcomes cont.

available through the EI Training Program website. Select the 'Upcoming EI Training Calendar' option from the Home Page; Search by category 'Other' OR 'Search All Categories'; Click the Search button at the bottom of the page. "Provider Training on Mandated Child Outcome Measures" will be the first training posted at the top of the events page. Resource documents are available for download and print via the attachment link (paperclip icon) found at the left-hand side of the horizontal gray bar at the bottom of the title slide in the split-screen view. The split-screen is accessed by clicking the camera icon at the bottom of the gray task bar on the right. The Illinois EI Training Program staff will be available to provide in-service and other informal training opportunities locally upon request.

Visit the Illinois EI Training Program website, www.illinoiseittraining.org, for information about these opportunities.

If you are interested in learning more about this initiative, including the process by which the outcomes were determined, the method(s) by which states will be reporting findings to OSEP, and/or resources and research related to child and family outcomes, please visit the Early Childhood Outcome Center's website at <http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~eco/index.cfm>.



The Early Intervention Training program standard is to create small training modules that focus on specific components of the service coordinator position. What used to be a three day, eighteen hour classroom-based training for new service coordinators has been broken down into 23 self-paced online modules which should be able to be completed in one hour or less. If a module is over an hour long, the course completion rate goes down significantly. There is a testing component at the of each module to ensure that learning has been achieved.

Each of the modules will help to prepare service coordinators in their work with families and providers . Macromedia Breeze is the web-based communication system the Illinois Early Intervention Training Program uses to create, manage, deploy, and track highly engaging self-paced online training modules and virtual classes within a common curriculum, which service coordinators can access instantly.

Look for new online opportunities to be available in the near future.

Looking for EI Activity Credit?

Don't forget www.illinoiseittraining.org

By Lucy Gimble, Program Assistant

Determining whether or not a particular training workshop, professional conference, online study course, etc. is applicable towards EI credentialing need not be as intimidating as we sometimes let anything involving a dreaded cycle of 'paperwork' be. The first step for any provider is to check the Illinois Early Intervention Training Program's website, www.illinoiseittraining.org. All events posted on our website's 'Upcoming EI Training Calendar' and the 'Past Trainings Approved for EI Credit' are approved and can be applied towards your EI credentialing. All you need to do is include 'Proof of Attendance' to any event listed with your Provider Connections (re)credentialing application.

The first step is to search the Training Program's website list of more than 2600 events by title of the event, month/year it was held or by category. If you haven't found what you are look for, don't panic thinking you are at the end of the road. It is quite possible that your par-

ticular event has not been previously submitted for EI approval. We are always in the process of updating the list and the event you are interested in may not be posted yet. Or, it could mean that the event has been submitted for approval and not approved. The latter does happen (not too often), but it is more likely that the request for that particular event has never been made or it is waiting to be posted.

Next step is back to www.illinoiseittraining.org. Scroll down the Home Page. The second to the last paragraph on the page begins, "NEED CREDIT FOR AN ACTIVITY???"

Two form titles are underlined and highlighted in blue within that paragraph. Click on the appropriate title and you will be linked to the one-page form in pdf. format, which is ready to print for completion.

[See EI Credit Page 3](#)

Provider Connections Corner

By Rob Derry, Director Providers Connection

Ongoing/Renewal Professional Education Requirements

During the three years that the full credential is valid, a credentialed provider shall receive a total of 30 hours of continuing professional education as approved by the Department. This training shall include two or more of the early intervention core knowledge content areas. Extensions of up to three months may be granted upon written request setting forth the facts concerning noncompliance. All continuing professional education submitted for renewal MUST be approved by the Illinois EI Training Program. If the continuing professional education was not provided by the EI Training Program and does not appear on their website listing of approved training it MUST be approved before submitting for renewal. The approval process typically takes a minimum of 30 business days. (See "Looking for EI Credit" article on page 2-3.)

The Department's credentialing office will consider extreme hardship and other extenuating circumstances and determine if an extension should be granted on an individual basis. Providers must use the Extension Request Form located at www.wiu.edu/providerconnections for this

purpose. The extension shall not extend the time within which the subsequent year's training requirements must be received.

Use of Videos for EI Continuing Education

Beginning April 1, 2006 a maximum of 5 hours of EI Video credit may be used for every 30 hours of continuing education submitted for renewal and/or core knowledge area documentation purposes. Any EI approved videos completed prior to April 1, 2006 may be used even though they may exceed the 5 hour maximum.

The Illinois Early Childhood Intervention Clearinghouse has worked with the EI Training Program to identify 175 recent videos at the Clearinghouse that are now approved for credit hours. You can link to the Clearinghouse's list of videos from the first screen on the Training Program's website. You will also need to download the EI Training Video Credit Request form and submit that to the training program after you have watched the video.

EI Credit Cont.

The forms are self-explanatory, requiring your contact information and four pieces of information regarding the workshop/event.

It is important to include all of the information requested when submitting any training event for review:

1. Workshop Title; Date Held; City/State Held; Sponsoring Entity - Event identifying information that will be posted on our website if approved for EI credit.
2. Brief Description of Workshop/Timed Program or Agenda - It cannot always be determined whether an event is appropriate for early intervention by a workshop title alone. The more information our review team has to review, the better able they are to determine the core content area and/or areas the event can be applied to. Without this information it is close to impossible to determine whether or not the applied credit can be distributed among one or more of the core content areas.

3. The Main Objective of the Workshop/Event - 50-100 word short answer response.
4. How the Information Presented at the Workshop/Event Will be Applied to Working With Children and Families Receiving Early Intervention Services - 50-100 word short answer response.

Responses to 3 & 4 further help the review team in determining the appropriateness of a core content area. Your reflections are very helpful in cases of crossover between two or more content areas.

The EI Credit Request Review Team makes every effort to process your requests objectively and in a timely manner. You can help expedite your request by completing the form legibly and by including all of the information requested. **Please note that the review process involves several steps that could take up to 30 business days or six weeks to complete.**





Program Director's Notes

By Ted Burke, Director

It's hard to believe that this is only April, considering how busy everyone has been this past quarter. Our Regional Training Consultants are working with the CFCs in prioritizing training needs. Hopefully you have been able to attend a training they have offered in your area.

We are putting the final touches to a three-hour training on Relationship-Based Intervention, which will help providers who were not able to attend any of the initial social-emotional training better understand our focus in Illinois for working with children and families. This training will be offered locally, through the CFCs and coordinated by the EI Training Program.

Please remember to fill out needs assessments at our trainings. We receive over 2000 needs assessments each year, which help us when we schedule events and plan for the upcoming year.

On-Line Service Coordination Training

One of our biggest accomplishments to date is the launching of the on-line training for Service Coordinators. Many thanks go out to Susan Connor and Sarah Nichols, whose tireless efforts made this dream a reality. It was a monumental task, but from what we've heard it was well worth it. Our on-line training on Child Outcomes is now available. We are also looking at developing

on-line training for billing. Keep checking our website to see when these trainings are available and information on how to access them.

Illinois EI goes to DEC again

The Illinois EI System will be well represented at the 2006 DEC International Conference to be held Oct. 19-22, 2006 in Little Rock Arkansas. Three proposals were accepted. I will be doing a presentation and poster display about our on-line training for service coordinators. Linda Gilkerson will lead a session about Relationship-Based Intervention to help other states understand how they can create a system-wide change that redefines how we work with families and young children. Chelsea Guillen will lead the Illinois team in a poster session that explains how Illinois developed a system to gather family outcomes.

Hope for All Conference Promoting Autism Spectrum Disorder Awareness July 14, 2006 @ The Hilton Northbrook, IL

Sponsored by the Hope for All Foundation this one-day conference offers a Keynote Address, four learning track options and EXPO. More information and online registration is available at the EI Training website.

www.illinoiseittraining.org

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c/o UCP of Greater Chicago

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