



## IDEA Part C Summer-Fall Family Newsletter

September-October 2012 Volume 2 No 5

### Message from Part C's State Family Resource Coordinator, Information & Referral.....

Dear Parents/Families,  
You are a "member of a Team"!

You've heard of the IFSP or **Individualized Family Service Plan**. Well, one of the purposes in the development of this plan is to identify and document your family's strengths and needs related to enhancing your child's development as well as the outcomes you would like to see for your child and family. The IFSP also lists and describes the resources or services needed to achieve those outcomes.

One guiding principal of the IFSP is that the family is

the child's greatest resource. So, the IFSP is a "family" plan with the parents as the major contributors in its development. Involvement of other team members will depend on what the child needs. Therefore you are an important member of the "team".

Yet the IFSP "paperwork" may not be as important as the process — the **interaction, collaboration, and partnerships** between families and professionals that are important to develop and implement a good IFSP.

So, as a team member be sure to spend the time to thoroughly read about

the IFSP process in your Parent Handbook that is provided when your child enters early intervention.

If you would like more information, please feel free to contact me at: [ddinnell@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:ddinnell@adsd.nv.gov)

Sincerely,  
Dan Dinnell

PS. Last but not least, there is a "new" Nevada State Part C Coordinator for Nevada's Early Intervention Services. Her name is Laura Valentine and you can get to know her by going to the last page.



Cheryl, Eric and Dan

**NEVADA's EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES**  
**IDEA Part C Office**  
3416 Goni Road,  
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Carson City, NV 89706  
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### Library

There are a great many things to learn...  
Check out the library catalogue for other titles at...  
[http://health.nv.gov/BEIS\\_SpecialEdLibrary.htm](http://health.nv.gov/BEIS_SpecialEdLibrary.htm)

**Book Title: "Building a Joyful Life with your Child who has Special Needs"**, by Whiteman and Roan-Yager.

This book considers the challenges of caring for children with physical, developmental and mental health disorders and proposes methods such as learning to see events through your child's own eyes, celebrating their strengths and achievements and recognizing how others can help your child. Chapters deal with key topics such as coping with a diagnosis, discussing support needs with a child's teachers and explaining a child's differences to their peers, and the authors stress the importance of parents building support systems for themselves and their children.

If you have recommendations for the Library, please let me know. Contact me at [ddinnell@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:ddinnell@adsd.nv.gov)

### FREE...

Enrollment in the national **EARLY INTERVENTION FAMILY ALLIANCE (EIFA)** to *all families* who have a child in early intervention!

**Keep informed! Obtain Answers!  
Impact Policies!**

The Early Intervention Family Alliance is a national group of family leaders dedicated to improving outcomes for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families, open to all.

Members receive email alerts and updates on key early intervention topics and can join the EIFA *list serve* to participate in active discussions and share experiences.

Web: [www.eifamilyalliance.org](http://www.eifamilyalliance.org)

**NORTHEASTERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES**

\* contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information

⇒ ***Nevada Early Intervention Services—Elko:***

⇒ ***Nevada Early Intervention Services—Ely:***

**NORTHWESTERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES**

\* contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information

⇒ ***Advanced Pediatric Therapies—Reno:***

⇒ ***Easter Seals Nevada—Carson City:***

⇒ ***Nevada Early Intervention Services—Carson City:***

⇒ ***Nevada Early Intervention Services—Reno:***

**NEIS Open House** - Tuesday, October 30, 3pm—5pm, trick or treat for the kids, and community information.

**Down Syndrome Network “Family Support Group”** - Every 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month from 5:45 pm at NEIS. Call 775-682-9071 or e-mail [dsnnninfo@gmail.com](mailto:dsnnninfo@gmail.com) to R.S.V.P.

**Family TIES** Family Support in filling out Medicaid/SSI and other Social Services applications every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday from 10am-12noon at NEIS, by RSVP only! Please call Andrea at 775-323-2205 to RSVP.

**Friends of Special Children** is looking for new board members to join their non-profit organization that supports families in Early Intervention. This non-profit has supported families at NEIS in so many ways both financially and physically. If you are interested in being a part of this great cause, please contact Lori Schoen at 688-0379.

**Hands and Voices** meets at NEIS, Enterprise Rd., Sept 27<sup>th</sup> and the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every other month at 6:00 pm.

**Weekly Sign Language Classes** by Nevada ASL, every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 10:00 am, and every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday at 11:15 am.

⇒ ***The Continuum—Reno:***

**SOUTHERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES**

\* contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information

⇒ ***Easter Seals Nevada—Las Vegas:***

⇒ ***ISS “BABY STEPS”—Las Vegas:***

⇒ ***Kideology—Las Vegas:***

⇒ ***Nevada Early Intervention Services—Las Vegas:***

**NEIS Families Health Fair**, Saturday, October 6 - free immunizations, dental, vision, hearing, food and resources/information.

**Milagros Escondidos**, Spanish speaking family support group - Milagros Escondidos grupo de apoyo para familias o individuales con habilidades especiales. Reuniones cada cuarto Jueves de mes 6 pm - 8 pm 1161 S. Valley View-NEIS.

⇒ ***Positively Kids—Las Vegas:***

**Duck Derby “Carnival”**, October 20, from Noon—4pm at Town Square, Las Vegas.

⇒ ***Therapy Management Group—Las Vegas:***

## *Nevada Disabilities Conference 2013*

*“Abilities + Knowledge = EMPOWERMENT”*



Family TIES of Nevada is collaborating with the Nevada State Health Division, the Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities and People First of Nevada to present the **Nevada Disabilities Conference 2013** (NDC). This first-time event will provide an educational forum on topics like inclusion, healthcare, transitions, financial security, recreation, independence, Assistive Technology, service supports, self-determination, advocacy and more for individuals with disabilities or special healthcare needs; their families, caregivers, professionals, policymakers, students, and self-advocates.

The conference will be held **March 20-23, 2013 at the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno**. Conference Highlights include an expanded Resource Fair and a visit to Nevada State legislators in Carson City. Our goal is to offer scholarships for people who live in rural communities or others who do not have the means to pay registration and travel costs. Family TIES will provide scholarship opportunity details later this year.

Please contact Mary Kay Altenburg, Family TIES Program Director and Conference Chair, at 775-823-9500 ext. 228 or email [NDC2013@familytiesnv.org](mailto:NDC2013@familytiesnv.org) for additional conference information.

Or visit their website at: [www.familytiesnv.org/](http://www.familytiesnv.org/)

## September is Emergency Preparedness Month

### Emergency Preparedness for Children with Special Needs

In an emergency, we all need to plan to be self-sufficient, and possibly spend several days without utilities, medical aid or communications. Preparing for an emergency is difficult for any parent, and as a parent caring for a child with special needs, you have extra things to think about.

Try to reflect on your child's needs if there was:

- ⇒ No water, electricity, telephone, heat, air conditioning, or refrigeration
- ⇒ No local access to prescription refills or health products
- ⇒ Separation from family members
- ⇒ Confinement to home or evacuation to a shelter or elsewhere
- ⇒ Limited health care access and emergency rescue services
- ⇒ A lack of transportation

A parent of a child with special needs explains, "I used to get overwhelmed about emergency preparedness, but once I broke it down into small steps it got easier. I put a few items on my shopping list and got other supplies at second hand stores and the Red Cross. I feel better knowing I'm ready instead of worrying about getting ready."

<http://www.fema.gov/> - The Federal Emergency Management Agency website has information on current and past disasters, applying for assistance, maps, and libraries of information and resources for disaster planning, response, and recovery.

They also have a special website (<http://www.fema.gov/kids/>) just for kids.

Seattle Children's Hospital Center for Children with Special Needs has a wonderful online list of **Preparedness Resources** -

<http://cshcn.org/planning-record-keeping/emergency-preparedness-children-special-needs/emergency-preparedness-referen>

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## The National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities (NICHCY) - July 2012

### THE LITTLE ONES: EARLY INTERVENTION/EARLY CHILDHOOD

#### Using Assistive Technology with Infants & Toddlers.

Infants and toddlers are likely to depend on the simpler forms of AT - like towel rolls to provide trunk support when sitting, an infant bathseat used by parents of all babies to provide sitting support in the bathtub, or a homemade communication device. Here's an info-rich article to help you decide on AT for our little ones that supports their developmental learning.

[http://tnt.asu.edu/files/Brief\\_5\\_ATUse\\_8-24-09\\_final.pdf](http://tnt.asu.edu/files/Brief_5_ATUse_8-24-09_final.pdf)

#### And how do we train the adults to use the child's AT?

This research brief, Evidence-Based Strategies for Training Adults to Use AT and Adaptations, summarizes findings from a research synthesis of the effectiveness of different types of practices for promoting practitioner and parent adoption of different kinds of AT and adaptations for young children with disabilities.

[http://tnt.asu.edu/files/TotsNTech\\_ResearchBrief\\_2011.pdf](http://tnt.asu.edu/files/TotsNTech_ResearchBrief_2011.pdf)

#### The Helpdesk at Tots 'n Tech.

This new resource from Tots 'n Tech is designed to help you easily find resources on assistive technology for infants and toddlers. You can find information on communication & socialization, getting around, arms & hands, problem solving, and more.

<http://tnt.asu.edu/tnt-helpdesk>

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**Nevada PEP**, as the statewide Parent Training and Information Center, offers classes such as "**Families are Important**" for families to better understand Early Intervention, their Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) and the Transition process from Early Intervention into the community or school districts. In "**Skills for Effective Parent Advocacy**" participants will learn the importance of advocacy and effective strategies to help children with disabilities. Communication techniques will help you feel confident advocating for children. For more information on these and other classes, contact PEP statewide at 1-800-216-5188 or visit their website at: [www.nvpep.org/](http://www.nvpep.org/)

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The Part C Family Newsletter has opportunities to suggest and share... You are invited to submit articles, share your story, or include your child in a Family Spotlight, with a photo. (All items are subject to editing and review.)

## The National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities (NICHCY) - August 2012

### Disability Awareness

This page includes a variety of resources on both disability awareness and disability etiquette.

<http://nichcy.org/families-community/awareness>

### Fact Sheets for Specific Disabilities

Each fact sheet defines the disability, describes its characteristics, offers tips for parents and teachers, and connects you with related information and organizations with special expertise in that disability.

<http://nichcy.org/disability/specific>

### Autism fact sheet in multiple languages.

The University of Southern California (USC), [Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities \(UCEDD\)](#) at Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA) has translated (with permission) the CDC "Learn the Signs. Act Early" Autism Fact Sheet into multiple languages to reach underserved populations and to encourage early identification of autism. The Autism Fact Sheet is available in Arabic, Armenian, English, Farsi, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Spanish, Tagalog, Thai, and Vietnamese.

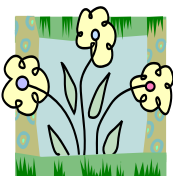
[http://www.uscucedd.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=455&Itemid=426](http://www.uscucedd.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=455&Itemid=426)

### Laura Valentine, the State's new Part C Coordinator for Nevada's Early Intervention Services —

"I am a Nevada native. I have been with the state for approximately 20 years, starting as a Service Coordinator and then moving on to Quality Assurance and Clinical Program Planning. Some administrative duties have included writing grants to expand homeless prevention programs, developing and implementing orientation and training programs for state and contract staff, developing policies/procedures, conducting monitoring and compliance, writing reports, etc. As the Director of Support Programs for Rural Services for five years, I was responsible for program development and ongoing oversight of Service Coordination (aka - Case Management), Residential Programs, Mental Health Court, Rehabilitation and Consumer-run programs.

Just briefly I was with the Health Division (since September of 2011) coordinating public health preparedness in the rural areas of Nevada. Although this job was brief, I met many wonderful people and have a greater understanding of what it takes to prepare for a disaster.

Although I have been in graduate school three times, I am currently, and finally, finishing a Master's in Human Behavior. I love the learning process and have never been out of school. Currently I am busy with other projects, such as owning an automotive repair facility with my husband. Yes, I do brake jobs but do not do the books. The most important projects in my life include being the wife of my high-school sweetheart, being the mother of two children (one is 15 and the other 26) and the grandmother of one - the light of my life".



[www.health.nv.gov/BEIS.htm](http://www.health.nv.gov/BEIS.htm)

Nevada's Early Intervention website is filled with information and resources, including a "Links" page of all kinds of useful websites with information, and a Frequently Asked Questions page.

To conserve resources and to make sure you don't miss out on useful information, please send your e-mail address to Dan Dinnell at [ddinnell@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:ddinnell@adsd.nv.gov) to receive the newsletter electronically

