

E-Newsletter -- April 2008



Hello Newsletter Subscribers!

Welcome to this month's issue of the **Better Kid Care E-Newsletter** - *A newsletter for those caring for children.*

Notable Quote: "It is important that children be allowed to find out the nature of things by themselves. Everything should not be explained, demystified, beforehand." ~ *Helle Nebelong*

In this issue:

- **Tips for Early Educators and Practitioners:** Summer Resources
- **Feature Article: Play:** Early Intervention: What Do You Need to Know?
- **Distance Education Highlights:** Are You Ready for a Special Needs Child?
- **Health and Safety:** Neighborhood Safety Network Posters
- **Turn the Page:** All Kinds of Friends
- **For Your Families:** Reading Times are Special Times
- **Satellite Workshops:** Improving Transition Times
- **CDA News:** History of the CDA
- **Professional Development Highlights**
- **Announcements of Interests**

Tips for Early Educators and Practitioners:

Summer Resources! . . . Plan for summer now!

Better Kid Care has pulled together resources to help early educators plan for summer. You'll find activities, lunch and snack ideas, tip pages, newsletters, distance education, and more! Visit the [Summer Resource](#) page for topics on:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Child Care for Mixed Ages  Creating Rock Gardens  Outdoor Art  Treasure Boxes  Hopping-Jumping-Creeping  Cool & Fruity Snacks | <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Outdoor Style Snacks that Are Fun  Summer Spaces  Sun Safety  Don't "Bug" Me  Rainy Day Ideas  And LOTS MORE! |
|---|---|

Do you have a *great tip* or *good thing*? Send us your best tips in writing and your tip may end up in our newsletter! Email Christine at crb16@psu.edu or contact the Better Kid Care Program at 814-865-7894 or 800-452-9108 (within PA).



Early Intervention: What do you need to know?

by Christine Belinda

Because you work so closely with children, you observe the different ways children develop and their unique learning styles. While all children grow and develop in their own way, you may notice changes in some children that are different than those in most, or that are different in comparison to general developmental milestones. Early recognition of a child's unique learning needs requires that you know about Early Intervention.

Early Intervention is a collaborative process designed to help children and their families with developmental delays. It is a collection of services and supports designed to help families enhance their child's development. Early Intervention involves a cohesive effort of parents, child care providers, Early Intervention providers, and others involved with the child.

Early Intervention services can include information on how children develop, therapies helping movement, information and plans designed for families to enhance their child's development, and ideas for how you can help the child in your program.



Be informed

Early Intervention services provide a window of opportunities for all involved, but it takes some looking into. Whether or not you have a child needing support, it is wise to be informed of Early Intervention services.

Each state provides information and services for Early Intervention. In Pennsylvania, Early Intervention is funded by federal, state, and county funds, public insurance, and many other community resources. County mental health/mental retardation programs administer Early Intervention programs locally for children from birth through age two (*infants and toddlers*).

The PA Department of Education, OCDEL; Office of Child Development and Early Learning; Bureau of Early Intervention Services--through local intermediate units, school districts, or other agencies--administers Early Intervention programs for children from three years to the start of school (*preschoolers*).

Know and use your contacts

Contact the local mental health/mental retardation program or Department of Education serving your area and request information regarding the referral process for Early Intervention (brochures and contact information). Also inquire about other services and information available for those who may not qualify for Early Intervention. Having this information on file allows you to be prepared for families in need. **PA contacts listed below*



Document your ideas

Written observations are always important in understanding each child's developmental needs. If you have concerns about a child, be sure to document these by collecting samples of work, written observations that occurred over a period of time, and written examples of the ways you have adapted your work to meet the child's needs. This will be supportive when sharing information with families and possibly the Early Intervention team.

Support families

Parents are the experts on their child. Take time to reflect on the families' needs and dreams for their child. It may be difficult for the family to hear concerns about their child. Often parents are frightened and unaware of where to go for help. Use active listening and share resources you have gathered from other agencies that offer support.

And remember, special concerns should be discussed at special meeting times, not at busy transition times. This meeting will be an important time for the family to share their ideas, concerns, and questions. Give them time to plan for the meeting as well as time to absorb what was discussed. Families will look to you for direction. It is not your role to label or diagnose the problem. Your role will be in working with the family to identify needs, show support, and help contact the designated referral agency.



Determine eligibility

The first step to accessing Early Intervention services is to determine if the child is eligible (by the Early Intervention program). With parental permission, preliminary information is gathered, and evaluations (and possibly screenings) are done to determine eligibility by the Early Intervention program.

If services are suggested by the Early Intervention specialists and accepted by the family, speak with both the family and the Early Intervention specialists about being part of the team. Early Intervention specialists are trained to share knowledge and skills to support the child, family, and others working with the child.

Programs that collaborate have better success: Children see the relationship and effort of adults working together and feel the emotional comfort of collaborating. Everyone working with the child incorporates comparable ideas and plans so that the child receives consistent support.

The Early Intervention program will assist the team in developing written plans for services. For birth to three years of age, the plan is called **Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSP)**. For children ages three to school age, written plans are called **Individualized Education Plans (IEP)**.



Every child is competent

Because you know the children in your care so well, you are an important person to identify their unique qualities and strengths. Becoming aware of Early Intervention can have a profound impact on children, their families, and you.

*Early Intervention Information in PA:

A Child Care Provider's Guide to Early Intervention Services in Pennsylvania - call 800-360-7288 or go to <http://www.pattan.net/files/EI/CC-Guide.pdf>

A Family's Introduction to Early Intervention in Pennsylvania - call 800-692-7288 or go to <http://www.pattan.k12.pa.us/files/EI/EarlyInt-guide-OUT.pdf>

CONNECT Information Services – 800-692-7288

DPW – Early Intervention <http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/PartnersProviders/ChildCareEarlyEd/003670909.htm>

Distance Education Highlights -- Are You Ready for a Special Needs Child?

Caring for a special needs child can be very rewarding. Learn how to balance your days and plan a program that meets the needs of all the children in your care. Discover how you can support special needs children by working as a team with their family, therapists, and doctors.

Preview and register for the distance education lesson: [Are You Ready for a Special Needs Child?](#)

View a complete listing of **all** distance education lessons and information about how to register by visiting the [Better Kid Care Distance Education](#) page.

Health and Safety Tips - Neighborhood Safety Network Posters

Neighborhood Safety Network Posters are available on many topics, including those important to the upcoming spring and summer seasons. Examples are bicycle safety, bicycle helmets, playground safety, pool safety, and firework safety. View or print Neighborhood Safety Network Posters by visiting: <http://www.cpsc.gov/nsn/nsnposter.html>

By going to the Consumer Product Safety Commission home page www.cpsc.gov, you can sign up for reminders when the NSN publishes new items.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month - View Child Abuse Prevention Materials at www.safestartcenter.org/month.htm

Turn the Page

Great Books to Read with Children: All Kinds of Friends



All Kinds of Friends, Even Green! by Ellen B. Sensi, published by Woodbine House, ISBN 1890627356. With this beautifully photographed and engaging story, children discover that living with disability and facing its challenges can be seen as interesting, even positive.

Friends at School, by Rochelle Bunnett, published by Star Bright Books, ISBN 1595720405. A story about acceptance and diversity; children of mixed abilities working and playing at school.

My Friend Isabelle, by Eliza Woloson, published by Woodbine House, ISBN 189062750X. Isabel and Charlie are friends. Some things they do the same; some things they do different. They discover this is exactly what makes the world a great place!

How Willy Got His Wheels, by Deborah Turner, published by Doral Publishing, ISBN 0944875548. This is a real-life story based on a family who adopted a dog who could not walk. Discover the many humorous ways they attempt to help him walk (balloons, skateboards) until he is fitted to a wheelchair. Inspirational!

Susan Laughs, by Jeanne Willis, published by Henry Hold and Company, ISBN 0805066016. Children identify with the many things Susan does: Susan throws, Susan swims, Susan sulks, Susan gets mad, Susan laughs, etc. Near the end of the story, we discover Susan is in a wheelchair.

More books about "All Kinds of Friends":

I Can, Can You? by Marjorie Pitzer, published by Woodbine House, ISBN 1890627577

Someone Special Like You, by Tricia Brown, published by Henry Hold and Co., ISBN 0805042687

In Jesse's Shoes, by Beverly Lewis, published by Bethany House, ISBN 0764203134

Victoria's Day, by Maria de Fatima Campos, published by Francis Lincoln, ISBN 1845075714

For Your Families: Family Time / Work Time

Are you looking for articles to share with your families? Do you need information for your parent/family bulletin board? [Family Time / Work Time](#) shares easy-to-read articles for busy parents and caretakers with a focus on **Building Strong Families**.

You are welcome to print and share these publications with your friends, family, and other child care providers.



Reading Times Are Special Times

by Nancy Wilson

Early Childhood Program Specialist

Get the reading habit early. Your child will benefit from hearing you read to her from the time she is born. Reading times are one-on-one times with your child. It only takes a few minutes to read a book to you child, but the special bond you build lasts a lifetime.

Click on graphic to read the
entire article 

Better Kid Care Satellite Season 2007-08

Welcome to the 2007-08 satellite season! Satellite workshops offer opportunities for child care providers to learn from experts and to share their experiences with other child care providers nationwide. Professional development hours are available. Mark your calendars now with the following date and topic:

Next up! May 15, 2008

Improving Transition Times

Professional Development Code K2C2 / Topic Code 13 / CDA 1

Moving from place to place, activity to activity, is often filled with tears, screaming, and tantrums. Learn how you can smooth transitions to make them productive, fun times for children and stress free for adults.

Visit the [Satellite Workshop](#) link for more information.

Missed a show? Visit the [Past Satellite Workshop](#) page to view video online. If you live in Pennsylvania, contact your [local extension educator](#) for information to attend a workshop in your area. Outside Pennsylvania view [Out-of-State Information](#) link.

CDA News!

Visit the Better Kid Care "[What is the CDA?](#)" newly revised link and get answers to your CDA questions! Call Christine at 800-452-9108 or e-mail your CDA questions to crb16@psu.edu.

History of CDA

The concept for the CDA credential was initiated in 1971 as a national movement to improve the quality of child care and was funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF). Following three years of development work, the first CDA credentials were awarded in July 1975. Learn more about the history of the CDA by visiting http://www.cdacouncil.org/ab_his.htm


Professional Development Highlights

Interested in professional development opportunities? Take a look at the following professional development training available for early childhood practitioners.

In Pennsylvania:

- **April 17** - The ABC of IEP's - A live, online session entitled The ABC's of IEPs: Writing Effective Outcomes will be offered from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM presented by The Arc of Pennsylvania. www.center-school.org/sknsoc 717-763-1661 ext. 110
- **April 17 - 19** - Pennsylvania Music Educator Association (PMEA) Annual In-Service conference will be held at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center 610-567-9757 www.pmea.net/conference.html
- **April 19** - Week of the Young Child Seminar, Schwenksville, PA. Call: 610-799-1875
- **April 25** - Learning Early Conference, Sayre, PA, 570-268-2787, [Annual Conference](#)
- **April 26** - Special Needs Conference, Reading, PA. Call: 610-378-1327
- **April 30 - May 2** - National Forum on Children, Families, and Courts: Planning for the Future, Philadelphia, PA 717-795-2684 www.ncjfcj.org/content/view/285/378
- **May 1 - 2** - PA Head Start Association Spring Conference: "Choosing Our Path, Embracing Our Future," Harrisburg, PA www.paheadstart.org/index.cfm?mm_id=11
- **May 8 - 9** - Cyert Center Visitation Day, Pittsburgh, PA www.cmu.edu/cyert-center
- **May 10** - BKC Professional Development Day, Warren, PA 814-563, 9388
- **May 10** - Northeast Early Childhood Professional Conference, Philadelphia, PA 267-322-3400, www.pecc.info
- **May 10** - Spring Professional Development for Child Care Practitioners, Erie, PA 814-874-0144
- **May 29-30** - PA Higher Education Institute, State College, PA 717 213-2064 or beraho@berksiu.org
- **June 4** - 15th Annual Family Support Conference, University of Pittsburgh Office of Child Development, Pittsburgh, PA, www.education.pitt.edu/ocd/training/
- **August 4 - 8** - National Autism Conference, Penn State Conference Hotel, State College, PA, www.pattan.k12.pa.us/files/Flyers08/AutismConf0804-0808.pdf
- **October 25** - Pittsburgh AEYC Bi-annual conference <http://pghaeyc.org/>

Other:

- **Mind in the Making** - April 17-May 22, State College, PA, 814-865-9156
- **PA Department of Education, One Size Does Not Fit All: Differentiating in the Early Childhood Classroom**, April 22 - 9-3:30 (Free), Locations in Colonial IU, Lancaster-Lebanon IU13, Allegheny Intermediate Unit 3, Appalachia IU8, Tuscarora IU 11, Central IU10 and Chester County IU 24, [Download PDF](#) 
- **2008 PA Governor's Institutes for Early Childhood Education** - "Affective Development: Supporting Children's Approaches to Learning." Keystone College, June 22 - 27, Juniata College, July 13 - 18. Applications for registration will become available soon online at: <http://www.papde.ws/new>.
- **Blair County Spring Professional Development Opportunities** 814-940-5989 <http://blair.extension.psu.edu/families/Spring08BKCSched.htm>
- **Ounce Scale Implementation Institute**, various dates and locations, contact www.pattan.net
- **The Work Sampling System Implementation Institutes**, various dates and locations, contact www.pattan.net

Professional Development Highlights (continued)

- **PA Director Credential Program** – Leadership and Management, Early Development and Education Institute, PSU, State College, PA 814-865-7951
- **Early Childhood Professional Development Course**, Level I, January 16 - June 4 - 10 three-hour workshops, PA Keys Career Development, 717-771-4164

Outside Pennsylvania:

- **April 16 - 19** - National Association of Child Care Professionals, "How Successful Directors Manage," www.naccp.org, 800-537-1118, <http://www.naccp.org/associations/460/files/naccpConfBro2008.final.pdf>
 - **April 20** - 26th Annual "Protecting Our Children," National American Indian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, National Indian Child Welfare Association, Minneapolis, MN www.nicwa.org/conference
 - **April 21** - 16th Annual Children's Justice Conference, Washington State Department of Social & Health Services, Seattle, WA
http://dshscjc.com/component/option,com_frontpage/Itemid,1/
 - **May 6 - 9** – National Smart Start Conference, Greensboro, NC, 919-639-2218,
<http://ns2.ncsmartstart.org/conference/2008/index.html>
 - **May 19** - Prevent Child Abuse America 2008 National Conference
Connecting the Dots: Turning Knowledge into Action, Milwaukee, WI
www.preventchildabuse.org/events/conference/key_dates.shtml
 - **June 9 - 11** - NAEYC National Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development, New Orleans, LA, 800-424-2460, www.naeyc.org
 - **June 25 - 28** – 2008 National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference, Costa Mesa, CA
<http://www.cfaitc.org/Conference/national.php>
- **More professional development resources:**
- [Better Kid Care Distance Education](#)
 - PA Keys Training Calendar [Professional Development Calendar](#)
 - [NAEYC Affiliate Conferences](#)
 - [World Forum](#) - ongoing global exchange of ideas on the delivery of quality services for young children in diverse settings

Announcements of Interest:

The beauty of the *One Book, Every Young Child* program goes far beyond just giving parents and caregivers a book to read to preschoolers. It emphasizes ways that adults can engage children in activities such as talking about a book's cover and illustrations, discussing the action in the book and favorite parts, and making up pretend play games related to the story.
<http://www.paonebook.org/>

ECE Student Advocacy Toolkit - ECE students and teachers, learn how to become a children's champion with the PA Keys Student Advocacy Toolkit. This toolkit includes a PowerPoint presentation, discussion guide, and activities to help college teachers discuss public policy and our role as children's champions. Visit
http://www.pakeys.org/student_advocacy_toolkit.aspx

FBI Clearances - As of July 1, 2008, **new** staff in **new** early childhood facilities including Centers, Group Homes and Family Child Care Homes, must obtain a fingerprint-based FBI Clearance (this also includes **new** staff in existing programs). This is also in addition to the already required Child Abuse and Pennsylvania State Police Criminal History Record. Visit www.pa.cogentid.com/dpw *Family Child Care Homes are now required to have Child Abuse Clearance, Police Criminal History Checks, and FBI Clearance for every person over 18 years of age who live in the home for over 30 days.
http://www.pa.cogentid.com/dpw/DPW_DOCS_html/PA_DPW_FAQs.htm

Announcements of Interest (continued)

PLACES for PLAY - [Play Link](#) and the [Free Play Network](#) have created [PLACES for PLAY: Exhibition](#) to illustrate some of the many imaginative ways of creating play environments.

Plan Ahead for National Environmental Education Week - April 13-19, 2008

National Environmental Education Week (EE Week) is the nation's largest organized environmental education event. It increases the educational impact of Earth Day (April 22) by creating a full week of educational preparation, learning, and activities for K-12 classrooms, nature centers, zoos, museums, and aquariums. <http://www.eeweek.org/>

Child Care Trends; Early Childhood Research Briefs -We study the features of high-quality environments, professional development for the early care and education workforce, and effective strategies for improving the quality of children's early experiences, both at home and in child care. Visit http://www.childtrends.org/_portalcat.cfm?LID=51F75FAD-F095-4351-AEB50DFBAC4A2EA0

Children and Nature Network - As part of ongoing efforts to build movement, the Children & Nature Network has published two new resources for leaders, organizers, and participants at the local, national, and international levels: http://www.cnaturenet.org/news/detail/trail_guides_for_the_ipod_generation *Children and Nature 2008: A Report on the Movement to Reconnect Children to the Natural World* [Download PDF \[2.2MB\]](#) *C&NN Community Action Guide: Building the Children & Nature Movement from the Ground Up* [\[>\] Download PDF \[1.4MB\]](#)

2009 Youth Garden Grants ~ Deadline: November 1

NGA is happy to announce that The Home Depot has returned to sponsor the Youth Garden Grants for 2009. For the 2009 grant cycle, 125 grants are available. <http://www.kidsgardening.com/YGG.asp>

Earth Day is April 22, 2008! Thousands of groups and individuals are planning [events all around the world](#). <http://ww2.earthday.net/~earthday/>

Saucony Run for Good Program encourages active and healthy lifestyles in children and offers grants to communities and non-profit organizations that initiate and support running and fitness programs for kids. Deadline: June 13, 2008. <http://www.sauconyrunforgood.com/>

Child Abuse Prevention Begins at Home - In recognition of National Child Abuse Prevention Month, CYFERnet (Children Youth and Families Education Research Network) focuses on helping parents learn positive ways to guide and discipline their children, manage stress and improve family communication. View the myriad of resources available through CYFERnetsome of them in Spanish as well as English at: <http://www.cyfernet.org/hottopic/april08.html>

Child Welfare League of America on-line radio - All this month, the Child Welfare League of America's new online radio channel will feature topics related to child abuse and neglect prevention. Don't miss the April 9 coverage of the upcoming Child Abuse and Prevention Act reauthorization. To listen to On the Line with CWLA, go to www.blogtalkradio.com/CWLA-Radio.

Record the Ribbit 2008 - Saturday, May 3 - Looking for a fun activity for you, your family or friends? Why not help FrogWatch USA by monitoring frogs and toads in your area? Join hundreds of FrogWatchers across the country on Saturday, May 3rd, and in as little as twenty minutes, you can help create a "snapshot" of the environmental health status of amphibians. For more information about FrogWatch USA or to become a regular FrogWatch USA monitor, click here: www.nwf.org/frogwatchusa

National Wildlife Week April 19 - 27 - Celebrate the 70th Anniversary of National Wildlife Week. Visit www.nwf.org/watch to download wildlife watch list for your state, share your sightings online and even talk to other Wildlife Watchers.

Better Kid Care Resources

Better Kid Care Kit

Need ideas in your work caring for children? When you enroll in the Better Kid Care Program and sign up for the Better Kid Care Kit, family child care providers will receive several free publications in the mail. Family home child care providers will also receive [The Basics of Caring for Children in your Home](#) notebook to organize and store your Better Kid Care publications. Have you signed up to receive a Better Kid Care Kit yet? Complete our [online registration form](#) or call **800-452-9108** to order.

Preview notebook contents: [Tip Sheets](#), [Activities Pages](#) & [Lunch and Snack Ideas](#)

All publications are available online to print and share with your friends, family, and other childcare providers. *Select issues are also available in Spanish.*

[New Staff Orientation](#) curriculum is specifically designed for new staff members in child care centers. *Meets the Keystone STARS Performance Standards.* Order at no cost by calling 800-452-9108.

[Home-Based Caregiver Orientation](#) - *Meets the Keystone STARS Core Series Training Requirements.* Order at no cost by calling 800-452-9108.

Better Kid Care Mentoring Telephone Help Line for Child Care Providers in Pennsylvania

Do you have questions about caring for other people's children, such as:

- How do I get a child to eat?
- Why won't a child share?
- How do I stop a child from biting other children?
- What should I do when a parent doesn't pay on time?

Call the **Better Kid Care Mentoring Line** at **800-859-8340** or e-mail your questions to betterkidcare@psu.edu for information about child care and children's issues.

Subscribe to the BKC E-Newsletter!

New subscribers can join by sending an email to: BetterKidCareNews-subscribe-request@lists.psu.edu.

View archived [Better Kid Care E-Newsletters](#)

Upcoming Feature Article in May E-Newsletter:

Look for information on Creating Structures Big and Small

Reflections...

We would love to hear from you! E-mail your ideas to crb16@psu.edu or call 814-865-7894.

Disclaimer: Where trade names appear, no discrimination is intended, and no endorsement by Penn State Cooperative Extension is implied.
