



WI Division for Early Childhood



W•D•E•C

Fall 2008

A Message from the WDEC President, Mary Joslin

WDEC represents the interests of children with disabilities and their families. It also represents the interests of the professionals who work with these young children. Many, if not most of the professionals who work with children with disabilities, have little or no training to prepare them. This organization and its members can be the key to supporting all early childhood professionals. Please share this newsletter and your great journals with others you collaborate with. You are the face of WDEC to those around you. ■



Mary Joslin is the ECSE Program Support Teacher for CESA #10 and President of WDEC. You may reach her at mjoslin@cesa10.k12.wi.us



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The Division for Early Childhood •2008• Minneapolis, MN• October 27-30

Renew. Refresh. Rejuvenate.

Working with young children with special needs and children who are at-risk is important and rewarding, whether it's your "day job" or your family's life. While surrounded by professionals and family members who understand the work you do, DEC•2008 will invigorate you with the latest research and practices in the field. It will fortify your thinking with new ideas and restore your spirit. We are pleased to be in downtown Minneapolis for our 2008 conference.

Visit www.dec.sped.org/conference for the latest conference information

Experience DEC•2008 and renew your energy with us!



**24th Annual
International
Conference on
Young Children
with Special
Needs & Their
Families**

Be A Bucket Filler!

"Parents need to fill a child's bucket of self-esteem so high that the rest of the world can't poke enough holes to drain it dry". -Alvin Price

Bucket Fillers is a program based off the educational programs of Merrill Lundgren, the Bucket Man. The children's book ***Have You Filled a Bucket Today: A Guide to Daily Happiness for Kids*** by Carol McCloud is based on his programs and pioneering work in schools. The Bucket Filling program is done through school-wide assemblies and visits from the Bucket Fillers. If you're interested in having them come to your school, be sure to contact them via their website: www.bucketfillersforlife.com

State Performance Plan and Early Childhood Indicators



As many of you know, Wisconsin has state performance plan indicators for all of special education. There are 20 indicators that have targets and goals. You can get a copy at:

<http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/doc/spp-tar-goal.doc>.

Many of the indicators apply to all ages 3-21, but the following three are specific to early childhood:

#6 PRESCHOOL LRE:

Percent of preschool children with IEPs who received special education and related services in settings with typically developing peers (e.g., early childhood settings, home and part-time early childhood special education settings).

#7 PRESCHOOL OUTCOMES:

Percent of preschool children with IEPs who demonstrate improved:

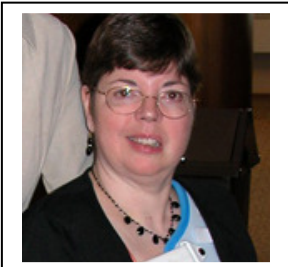
- A. Positive social-emotional skills (including social relationships);
- B. Acquisition and use of knowledge and skills (including early language/communication and early literacy;
- C. Use of appropriate behaviors to meet their needs.

#12 PART C TO PART B (Early Childhood Transition):

Percent of children referred by Part C prior to age 3, who are found eligible for Part B, and who have an IEP developed and implemented by their 3rd birthdays.

Our state has been found out of compliance on indicator 12 because the expectation is that when a referral comes from Birth-to-3, the IEP must be in place by the third birthday, 100% of the time. Due to this compliance issue there will be much work done during this school year to reach this goal. Training will be conducted in each region of the state that will include Birth-to-3 and 3-5 providers. Watch for more information or contact your CESA Early Childhood Program Support Teacher/Early Childhood Consultant. They are responsible to provide your district support on state performance plan issues even if your district does not purchase CESA services. ■

Ann Hains has been Nominated for the Outstanding Service Award!



Ann Hains, Ph.D., has been nominated for the Outstanding Service Award by the WI Division for Early Childhood & WI Early Childhood Association to be awarded at the Fall 2008 Conference. This award is designed to acknowledge the career of a professional who has or is making a lasting impact on early childhood education or services for young children and families in a region of the state or statewide.

CONGRATULATIONS ANN!!!

Recently retired from the University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee with more than 21 years of service, Professor Hains has served the state in so many ways, including as a past president of the WDEC. In addition to her many career accomplishments, nationally, Ann has dedicated years of professional contribution to a number of early childhood initiatives within Wisconsin.



Please join us for the annual WDEC meeting!

The WDEC Board and Annual meeting will be held on Thursday, October 9, 2008, from 5:30-7:30 P.M. at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton, WI, which is the site of the Wisconsin Early Childhood Education and Care (WECEC) Conference. Check for the meeting room location upon arrival at the hotel. WISLine phone connection will be available (see below for more information). ■

WDEC Annual Meeting
WISLine AUDIO ACCESS INFORMATION

Toll Number: 608-316-0022
Toll Free Number: 888-677-9189
Leader Passcode: 4675

WDEC Bylaw Revisions

The WDEC committee is in the process of revising the bylaws. Your input is needed and appreciated. Please see the link to the bylaw revisions on the Preschool Options Website:
www.preschooloptions.org

The proposed revisions will be approved or denied at the annual meeting. Please plan to call in or attend the WDEC annual meeting to vote. If you have changes to recommend contact:
Mary Joslin: mjoslin@cesa10.k12.wi.us

Coming Soon to WDEC...



Watch for upcoming information on WDEC posted on the Internet. We are working on a link to provide up to date information and access to our members and all interested parties. Stay tuned for more information!!! ■



Extra, Extra... Read About Local Early Childhood News!
Here's what's going on around the state:

First Statewide Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Conference Is An Overwhelming Success!

Submitted by: Lana Nenide, Professional Development and Resource Director for WI-AIMH

In June 2008, the Wisconsin Alliance for Infant Mental Health (WI-AIMH) held its first statewide conference, "Early Relationships Matter: Building Networks." More than 300 people attended the three-day event at the Concourse Hotel in Madison, including representatives from 49 Wisconsin counties, California, New Mexico, Illinois, New Jersey, Arkansas, Minnesota and Tennessee. The conference featured three internationally-known and respected keynote speakers in addition to 39 different workshops covering infant and early childhood mental health, the importance of early relationships, brain development, attachment, sensory integration, temperament, and a variety of other topics.

Reggie Bicha, secretary of the new Department of Children and Families, gave enthusiastic and inspirational opening remarks. Bestselling author and parent educator Mary Sheedy Kurcinka shared her insights, knowledge and expertise in the area of child temperament with a room full of parents and professionals.

A major highlight of the conference was the presentation of the James R. Ryan Memorial Award. This award is intended for an individual who has made a significant contribution to the social-emotional well-being of infants, young children, and their families. The nominating committee unanimously selected Therese Ahlers as the first recipient of this award. Ahlers is the founding director of WI-AIMH and a nationally recognized advocate for the well-being of infants, young children and families. The award ceremony was particularly meaningful and special since the date of the ceremony fell on Jim Ryan's 65th birthday and his wife and son were both present at the ceremony. In fact, Lisa Ryan, was the one who presented Therese with the award.

Overall, the conference was an overwhelming success. One conference attendee, commenting on the quality and content of the presentations, stated that it was *"the caliber of a national conference."* WI-AIMH staff would like to thank the many sponsors and individuals who assisted with funding, planning, organizing and volunteering for this event. ■

Do YOU have exciting news to share with others in the WDEC Newsletter?



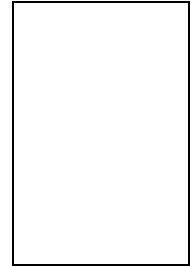
Submit YOUR news, stories, updates & photos for the next WDEC Newsletter by December 15, 2008 to:

Jenny Johnson, WDEC Newsletter
johje@mail.onalaska.k12.wi.us



WI Division for Early Childhood

c/o CESA #4
923 East Garland Street
West Salem, WI 54669



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

