

MNDEC Newsletter <http://www.mndec.org/>

Minnesota Division of Early Childhood

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December, 2015

President's message

Judy Beaton, MNDEC President

Hello Everyone!

MNDEC has been busy this fall with the Leadership Conference at Ruttger's September 30 - October 2, 2015 "Together Toward Better: Link, Learn and Lead". Thank you to MDE and members of the MNDEC board who put in so much time and effort to make this a meaningful conference! Also, some MNDEC members were able to attend the National DEC Conference held October 7th - 9th in Atlanta, GA. As you may recall from a previous newsletter, we had two Minnesota professionals who received awards at the National DEC Conference. I was happy to be able to attend the awards breakfast to see Donna Marget (previous supervisor for Wayzata) receive the Rose C. Engel Award for Excellence in Professional Practice and Judy Swett (PACER) receive the DEC Parent/Family Award. I feel privileged to work in Minnesota and with so many passionate and dedicated professionals! At the national conference, it was wonderful to hear from other states that they look to Minnesota as an example for providing high quality services to young children with special needs.

Please check out these resources!

The Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center -ECTA – I encourage you to use this website. It is a terrific resource designed to assist us as practitioners: <http://ectacenter.org>

Check out the IRIS Center from Vanderbilt Peabody College. This website offers many professional development resources! <http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu>

I hope to see you at the Spring MNDEC Practitioners Conference! Last year we had a tremendous turn-out! SAVE THE DATE – March 10th (evening) and March 11th (all-day). The conference will be held again in Bloomington. More details to follow!

Sincerely,

Judy Beaton, MN DEC President

2016 Action Research Initiative Grants

The Minnesota Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children (DEC) has agreed to devote the proceeds from the silent auction, held annually at the Division's fall conference to fund practitioners who wish to engage in action research efforts within their district programs. Two grants of \$500 each are available. Applicants may be individual practitioners or teams of practitioners and be currently working in a program that serves young children with disabilities and their families. Each application must include at least one applicant who is a current member of DEC. Action-research grant recipients must be willing to write a short article describing the process and results for publication on Minnesota DEC's website. Typical components of Action Research: Identifying the problem to be solved, Diagnosing the causes of the problem, Formulating an action hypothesis, Designing and implementing an action plan, Simple procedures for analysis of the resulting data or evidence.

Please complete all sections of the [application](#) and return by **February 12, 2016** to MNDEC President Judy Beaton at jbeaton@edenpr.org. To download application click on link: https://app6.websitetonight.com/projects2/4/1/8/9/2889814/uploads/mndec_action_research_initiative_2016Application_Form.pdf

State Updates

Carol Maliszewski, ECSE Education Specialist MDE/Office of Early Learning

Robyn Widley, former Minnesota 619 Coordinator, has been selected as the new State Director of Special Education. Robyn has been the supervisor of the Interagency Partnerships Unit with the division of Special Education Policy since 1999. We look forward to her leadership in continuing our work to assure all Minnesota's children get the necessary support for healthy development and lifelong learning.

The Minnesota Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) team continues to work on Phase II of the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP). Phase II is a focus on building the state capacity to support Early Intervention programs with the implementation of evidence-based practices that will lead to measurable improvements in the State-identified Measurable Result—the percent of infants, toddlers and preschool children who demonstrate greater than expected progress in acquisition and use of knowledge and skill. The Phase II SSIP is due to the federal Office of Special Education Programs in April 2016.

Please remember to visit the [Centers of Excellence Website](http://mncoe.org/) (CoE) on a regular basis. <http://mncoe.org/> We are using this site to share resources, communicate about upcoming events, and connect individuals. We update the site as new information is available and hope that you are finding these supports helpful. If you have any comments or suggestions regarding the CoE website feel free to post them in the "Contact Us" tab on the top of the front page.

Questions for the MDE ECSE team can be sent to the ECSE mailbox at mde.esce@state.mn.us.

Carol

Higher Education

Kellie Krick Oborn- St Thomas University, MN DEC board member

Aaron Deris, MN DEC President-Minnesota State University, Mankato at Edina

At the Fall MN DEC Leadership conference, faculty representing the ECSE programs in MN led a talk in regard to personnel shortages in the state. During the talk, leaders in the state were asked to share information from the perspective of their region. Items included-

1. Barriers they are facing
2. Ideas for Higher Ed
3. Role districts can play to assist
4. General feedback

The [hyperlinked PowerPoint](https://www.dropbox.com/s/rkrvmuzjd3dwvcv/MNDEC_Fall%20Leadership-%20HEC-ECSE-2.pptx?dl=0) presentation contains the entire presentation and the responses (slides 5 – 17) to the four items. https://www.dropbox.com/s/rkrvmuzjd3dwvcv/MNDEC_Fall%20Leadership-%20HEC-ECSE-2.pptx?dl=0

Aaron and Kellie

National DEC Updates

Donna Miller, Minnesota Centers of Excellence for Young Children with Disabilities

The DEC national conference was held October 7-9, 2015 in Atlanta, GA. This was the largest DEC Conference on record! Proposals for the 2016 conference in Louisville, Kentucky are now being accepted. (www.dec-sped.org/proposals). Presenting at the conference is a great way to reinforce and deepen your knowledge of topics of interest as well as showcase the fabulous work our state is doing!

DEC is continuing to work to develop materials and products to support technical assistance regarding the DEC Recommended Practices. Currently, the Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center is housing resources to reinforce practitioner knowledge and awareness of the evidence supported in our field. If you have not already, checkout the wonderful resources at ectacenter.org. DEC also provides ongoing professional development through the Learning Deck webinar series. These are short, targeted webinars on specific topics identified as areas of high need in our field.

DEC also hosts several Special Interest Groups (SIGS), such as Leadership, Research, Professional Development, Inclusive Programming and Practices, and Early Intervention. More information is available on the DEC website (<http://www.dec-sped.org/sigs>). The special interest groups serve as resources on the specialized topics providing current research and information.

Donna

Article Summary

Liz Barnett, MA, CCC-SLP, MN DEC newsletter editor, website manager

LeAnne D. Johnson, PhD and Emily Monn, MS of the University of Minnesota, explore moving from analysis to effective intervention in Bridging Behavioral Assessment, an article in the September 2015 issue of the journal Young Exceptional Children (YEC) (Volume 18, Number 3). As professionals working with families and young children, we analyze the interplay of settings, routines, antecedents, the behavior, consequences of the behavior, etc. If universal supports and secondary interventions do not work, we arrive at the level of (personalized) tertiary prevention. In this article, Johnson and Monn explore personalizing intervention (“to child and environment”) for increased likelihood of success. If a child does not have a skill, we need to teach replacement behaviors. But, what if a child uses the skill at other times? We need to look at why it isn’t used in a particular context. Johnson and Monn describe using empirical evidence based on the child’s experience regarding timing of supports (e.g. signal presentation, task length, frequency of task, etc.) to increase the likelihood of using an appropriate behavior. The authors provide vignettes illustrating a child’s experience in two settings (ECSE program, shopping with parent). They include a sample ABCs data sheet (Antecedent, Behavior, and Consequences) and a sample intervention plan to teach a desired skill. Look at this article and get ideas for personalizing intervention to build increasingly acceptable behavior.

While you are at it, check out the other articles in the September 2015 issue of YEC. Using iPad Applications to Increase Literacy Skills for Children PreK to Grade 3 with Disabilities by Angi Stone-MacDonald PhD, university of Massachusetts Boston, provides examples of objectives with embedded assistive technology, suggestions for using apps and a rating chart to guide your evaluation of applications for educational use. Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation: Common Questions and Answers by Mary-alayne Hughes, PhD, Christine M. Spence, MM, and Michaelene M. Ostrosky, PhD, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, could be beneficial to you in collaborating with family members and colleagues.

Also, on page 52, Resources within Reason by Natalie Danner, PhD, University of Connecticut Health, Catherine Corr, PhD, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, and Camille Catlett, MA, Frank Porter Graham Child Developmental Institute, Chapel Hill, suggest the following resources to aid in meeting the “needs of young children with disabilities who have experienced abuse and/or neglect:

From Science to Public Policy: Early Intervention for Abused and Neglected Infants and Toddlers
http://main.zerotothree.org/site/DocServer/CAPTA_IDEA.pdf?docID=1922

Addressing the Needs of Young Children in Child Welfare: Part C—Early Intervention Services
<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/partc/>

New Directions in Child Abuse and Neglect Research
<http://www.nap.edu/catalog/18331/new-directions-in-child-abuse-and-neglect-research>

The Center on the Developing Child (video series)
<http://developingchild.harvard.edu/inbrief-series/>

News and Events

Action Initiative Research Grant Applications due
Spring Practitioner Conference (Bloomington, MN)

February 12, 2016
March 10, 2016 (evening) and March 11, 2016 (all-day).

Do you have an ECSE question?

The Minnesota Department of Education Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) leadership team has a general email address that can be used to submit any ECSE question, birth to five. The emails will be answered in a timely manner by members of this team. Email questions to: mde.ecse@state.mn.us

Resources

Looking for a job in ECSE? www.mndec.org http://mndec.org/Job_Postings.html

Prospective Employer? Complete the document to post on MN DEC's website:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1XPHA15yLJWaLeTMKe5TZmLkgerQFLTr1Asx-s3wSipM/viewform>

Minnesota Centers of Excellence has a very well developed website. www.mncoe.org

Minnesota Parents Know <http://parentsknow.state.mn.us/parentsknow/index.html> Provides trusted parenting information, resources, and activities to help your children grow, develop, and learn from birth through high school. Links, podcasts, videos, newsletters, and how-to-connect to programs for parents of children of all ages and abilities are available. Many materials are translated or presented in additional languages.

National Implementation Research Network (NIRN) NIRN's mission is to "contribute to best practices and science of implementation, organization change, and system reinvention to improve outcomes across the spectrum of human services". <http://nirn.fpg.unc.edu/> Go to their website and you will find a resource titled Implementation Drivers: Assessing Best Practices .

PACER's Early Childhood website <http://www.pacer.org/ec/>

Help Me Grow <http://www.helpmegrowmn.org/> An interagency initiative of the State of Minnesota (Department of Education, Department of Health and Department of Human Services) partnering with all local service agencies.

Head Start Center for Inclusion <http://depts.washington.edu/hscenter/>

Technical Assistance Center on Social Emotional Intervention for Young Children (TACSEI)
<http://www.challengingbehavior.org/>

Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL) <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/csefel/>

Technical Assistance Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Effective School-wide Interventions and Supports <http://www.pbis.org/>

Minnesota ECSE Licensure Programs <https://sites.google.com/a/umn.edu/mn-ecse-programs/>

Early Childhood Technical Assistance (ECTA) Webinars to support the Inclusion of Young Children with Disabilities. <http://www.ectacenter.org/~calls/2014/inclusion/inclusion.asp>

Professional Organizations

The Division for Early Childhood (DEC) <http://www.dec-sped.org>

Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) <http://www.cec.sped.org>

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) <http://www.naeyc.org>

Please do not forget to follow us:

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Minnesota-DEC/132315643458975?v=wall>

Twitter https://twitter.com/mndec_info

MNDEC is Minnesota's Chapter of The Division For Early Childhood

