

MNDEC

The Minnesota Division for Early Childhood

Newsletter April 24, 2013
VOLUME I, ISSUE 1

President's message

Kellie Krick Oborn, MN DEC President

Hello friends and colleagues. Happy spring! The 2012-2013 school year has been a very busy one for the Minnesota Division for Early Childhood Board. I appreciate this opportunity to share with you the ways in which we strive to promote policies and advance evidence-based practices that support families and enhance the optimal development of young children who have or at risk for developmental disabilities.

Professional Development Past and Future

Last fall we had the immense privilege (and gigantic task) of hosting the Division for Early Childhood International Conference. Under the theme of "Realizing the Vision", hundreds of educational sessions and a variety of networking opportunities were offered throughout the conference. Engaging pre-conference and post-conference sessions were attended, Sondra Samuels gave an inspiring opening address, and we were delighted by several new formats such as the dynamic IGNITE and practical toolbox sessions. It was wonderful to see so many members in attendance to learn, collaborate, volunteer, and present!

Once again this summer the MN DEC Board is excited to host a wine and dessert reception at the annual Minnesota Early Intervention Summer Institute at St. John's University. Ahhhh I can smell the Jonny Bread already! We hope to see all the regular attendees and many new faces this year. We know you'll find the lusciously landscaped and serene campus of St. John's University provides the perfect setting for learning, reflection, and rejuvenation. Join us June 13th and 14th.

<http://www.cehd.umn.edu/CEED/events/summerinstitute/default.html>

The 29th annual Division for Early Childhood International Conference will be held in San Francisco Oct 16-18th. This year's theme is **Bridging Research, Policy and Practice...Every Day, Every Chance, Every Child**. Join us and plan to be inspired by top researchers, leading policymakers, practitioners and families as they share evidence-based innovative approaches that demonstrate meaningful, effective and sustainable collaborations across research, policy and practice.

<http://www.dec-sped.org/Conference>

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1-2 President's message
- 3 State updates
- 3 Higher Education
- 4 Article Summary
- 4 Professional Activities
- 4 News and Events
- 4 Professional Organizations
- 4 Resources
- 5 Membership Benefits

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President's message continued from page 1

Looking ahead to next school year, you can rest assured that the MN DEC Board will once again host the Fall Leadership Conference and the Spring Practitioners Conference. Stay tuned to the MN DEC website for more information!

Other MN DEC Initiatives

Did you know that MN DEC can fund practitioners who wish to engage in action research efforts within their district programs? Do you have ideas for innovative programming but just need a little money behind your excitement? Two grants of \$500 each are available! Applicants can be individual practitioners or teams who are currently working in a program that serves young children with disabilities and their families. Applications due by May 15th, 2013.

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

Improving communication and opportunities for participation and support continue to be a priorities for the MN DEC Board. Please check out on-going improvements to our website where you'll find great information:

- A calendar of events
- Sign up for MN DEC Newsletter
- Submit questions/ comments/feedback/suggestions
- A Directory of the Board and meeting schedule
- Find us on Facebook, too.

The MN DEC Board welcomes your participation! Maybe you're interested in sitting on the Board or simply attending the meetings to get a feel for the work we do. Or perhaps you would like to participate in a work group to help plan for the Spring Practitioners Conference or the Fall Leadership Conference. Whatever your interests or availability, we can help you get involved! Please feel free to contact me directly (kelliekrickoborn@gmail.com) or connect with us via the MN DEC website. <http://www.mndec.org/>

Thank you for your dedication to our field and for continuing to be part of the largest international professional organization dedicated to improving outcomes for children with disabilities and their families.

Wishing you a warm and sunny spring and a restful summer!

Sincerely,

Kellie Krick Oborn
MN DEC President

"Thank you for your dedication to our field and for continuing to be part of the largest international professional organization dedicated to improving outcomes for children with disabilities and their families."

State Update

The Minnesota Centers of Excellence for Young Children with Disabilities ([MN-COE](#)), funded by Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) is committed to offering high-quality, evidence-based professional development resources to practitioners working with young children with disabilities (birth-Five) and their families. Our goal is to provide these professional development opportunities in both face-to face and online formats. Check out our website at www.mncoe.org to explore the learning modules designed just for you! Once on the website, click on “[Knowledge Bank](#)” and then “MN-COE Modules” folder. We are thrilled to share the latest “Service Coordination” modules and “Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Cadre” modules that are now posted online. For more information and details, contact Shivani Pandit at Shivani.Pandit@state.mn.us.

*Minnesota's Office of Early Learning
Department of Early Childhood Special Education*

Introducing a member of the MDE ECSE team

Jennifer (Jenny) Moses recently joined the Early Childhood Special Education team at the Minnesota Department of Education. As the Part B Implementation Specialist, she looks forward to working with many of you in your work with children ages 3-5 with special education needs. Her work experience within St. Paul Public Schools has given her the opportunity to work with children and families in natural environments (home and general education settings) from birth to age 5. She enjoys working with teams to impact the education of children and has had practical experiences with curriculum, instruction and due process. She looks forward to supporting districts in ensuring students receive quality instruction through the use of evidence based practice which impacts the outcomes for preschoolers. Jenny can be reached by email at jennifer.moses@state.mn.us or by phone at 651-582-8382.

Higher Education

We are gearing up for the annual Minnesota Early Intervention Summer Institute at St. John's University. This event will be held on June 13 and 14 and there will be many great sessions. If you are interested in attending please go to the following link for registration information- <http://www.cehd.umn.edu/CEED/events/summerinstitute/default.html>. The cost for a MN resident by April 30 is \$80 and after April 30 the cost will be \$95. Costs for non MN residents is \$350.

Annual Minnesota Early Intervention Summer Institute at St. John's University

Aaron R. Deris, PhD, MNDEC Board of Directors
Department of Special Education Minnesota State University, Mankato at Edina

Article Summary

by Liz Barnett, MA, CCC-SLP

Journal of Early Intervention Volume 34, Number 4, December 2012, pp195-221

Effects of an Automated Vocabulary and Comprehension Intervention: An Early Efficacy Study

Elizabeth J. Spencer, Howard Goldstein, Amber Sherman, Sean Noe, Rhonda Tabbah, Robyn Ziolkowski and Naomi Schneider

This small study explored systematic vocabulary and comprehension as a Tier 2 RtI intervention for 9 preschoolers with limited oral language skills. Ten story books were designed to be delivered to 3 children in a group monitored by an adult facilitator. Each child was trained on the first recorded story. They listened, through headphones, to a recorded 5-6 minute illustrated story and took a pretest on vocabulary and comprehension. Intervention consisted of listening to a 9-11 minute version of the story, with embedded questions, comments and reinforcement, a total of three times across approximately three days. The children took a post-test and a pretest for the next story on the same day. The authors summarized the results as producing “modestly robust effects” on vocabulary learning and “more modest effects” on ability to answer comprehension questions.

Children need opportunities to develop oral language skills. This study provided experience defining words and answering a variety of questions including character emotion, prediction, recall of events and connections between the story and the child’s own experience. We all hope to provide instruction that will improve our students’ vocabulary and comprehension skills so that they become better readers and users of language. The authors suggest further areas of study.

Of note, children who were judged as potentially needing Tier 3 RtI interventions, based on very low oral language skills, were not included in the study.

Professional Activities

June 3 is the last day to register for the [Minnesota Early Intervention Summer Institute](#) at St. John’s University.

The 29th annual [Division for Early Childhood International Conference](#) in San Francisco Oct 16-18th. The theme is ***Bridging Research, Policy and Practice...Every Day, Every Chance, Every Child.***

Check out Minnesota Centers of Excellence for Young Children with Disabilities ([MN-COE](#)), [Knowledge Bank](#), [Connect Modules](#) and the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse ([CLD](#)) Cadre Overview

News and Events

[2013 Action Research Initiative Grant Applications](#) due May 15.

Please complete all sections and return to MN DEC President KellieKrick Oborn at kelliekrickoborn@gmail.com
Application is available on MN DEC website [Grant page](#).

Fall Leadership conference Oct 2 - Oct 4 (All

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>

Resources

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 Parents Know

<http://parentsknow.state.mn.us/parentsknow/index.html>

MN DEC Membership

To join Minnesota DEC, you must first join the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). You do this by going to the CEC website http://www.cec.sped.org/Membership?sc_lang=en to join online or download an application form. When you join, be sure to sign up for both CEC and our division - The Division for Early Childhood (DEC).

- Professional CEC annual dues for Minnesota are \$125.00.
 - DEC Subdivision annual dues are \$35.00.
 - Total CEC and DEC dues are \$160.00.
- Student CEC/DEC membership dues for full or part time students who are not employed in the field full time are \$84.00 annually.
- Associate CEC/DEC dues for paraprofessionals, parents or family members who are not employed full time in the field are \$107.00 annually.
- There are Joint, Retired, Premier and International memberships.

Benefits of DEC membership:

- Journal of Early Intervention--4 times a year!
- Young Exceptional Children journal--4 times a year!
- \$100 off conference registration for DEC's Annual International Conference.
- Order DEC products online and save 20%.
- Save approximately \$25 on registration for DEC webinars and other professional development events.
- Children's Action Network connects DEC members to current policy.
- Special Interest Groups bring members together to share research, guide practice, and advance new ideas.
- Exclusive opportunities for leadership.

CEC Member Benefits

- Journals
 - *TEACHING Exceptional Children* — actionable and useful articles to teach and administer programs for children with disabilities and/or gifts and talents (6 issues/year).
 - *Exceptional Children* — original research on the education and development of children with disabilities and/or gifts and talents in practical terms that you can bring into your classroom (4 issues/year).
- Books and Resources
 - Members receive up to a 30% discount on CEC's publications!
- Professional Development
 - CEC's continuing education programs, including the CEC Annual Convention & Expo.
- Advocacy and Support
- Special Interest Divisions
 - Join one or more of the 17 CEC special interest divisions.
- Peer Networking and Leadership Opportunities
 - **Coming soon is the CEC Online Community
- Online Career Center
- Savings on Insurance

Need More Information?

For additional information on the member benefits listed above, contact CEC's Customer Service Center at 888-232-7733, TTY 866-915-5000, or service@cec.sped.org. Representatives are available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET.