



# kits

# kansas in-service training system

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N E W S L E T T E R

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## Early Childhood Professionals meet with Senior USDE and HHS Officials

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<http://kskits.org/publications/newsletter.shtml>

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Six Kansas early education leaders met with senior officials from the US Department of Health and Human Services and US Department of Education on September 14 at the Woodland Early Learning Community School in Kansas City, Mo. regarding the new federal guidance on including children with disabilities in early learning programs.

Each member of the Kansas team represented a specific group of stakeholders, early childhood service program, and/or professional development and technical assistance support for those individuals working in the field of early childhood. Members of the Kansas' team were David Lindeman, Director of the University of Kansas Life Span Institute in Parsons and the Kansas Inservice Training System, Barbara Dayal, Kansas State Department of Education, Part B, 619 Coordinator, services for children 3-5 with disabilities; Carrie Hastings, Children's Services Manager, Kansas Department for Children and Families, in the Strengthening Families Unit; Gayle Stuber, Kansas State Department of Education, Coordinator for Early Childhood Programs; Sarah Walters, Kansas State Department of Health and Environment, Coordinator of IDEA, Part C Services, services for children birth to age three with disabilities; and Erick Vaughn, Executive Director, Head Start Association.

This was the first stop in US Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan's ten-city tour, Ready for Success: 2015 Back-To-School Bus Tour. The tour was launched with a joint policy statement from the U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services announcing the recommendations for increasing the number of children with disabilities in public and private high-quality inclusive early childhood programs nationwide.

This meeting with USDE Deputy Secretary, Libby Doggett, HHS Deputy Secretary, Linda Smith, Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Michael Yudin, OSEP Associate Division Director, Christy Kavulic, and HHS Policy Advisor, Shantel Meek provided representatives from Kansas and Missouri to engage in discussion of the potential impact of the joint policy statement.

The discussion focused on activities in their respective states regarding inclusion and focused on both opportunities and challenges. The federal officials and state representatives engaged in extended discussion regarding reaction to the policy statement, they discussed specific components of the statement, identified dissemination opportunities for the statement, and discussed additional supports that the federal agencies can provide states. This discussion lasted an hour and a half.

This policy statement highlights the benefits of inclusion for both children with and without disabilities, provides the scientific and legal foundations supporting inclusion, provides a clear definition of inclusion, and provides recommendation to states, school districts and early childhood programs for expanding inclusive high-quality early learning opportunities for all children.

As noted in the news release on the event from the USDE, this year is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Act and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Head Start, but too many preschool children with disabilities are still excluded from early childhood programs with their peers. There is significant work to be achieved regarding inclusions of young children with disabilities into everyday activities and learning environments.



“Perhaps the biggest political opportunity for both parties lies in the nonpartisan issue of early childhood education,”

Jim Messina, the campaign manager for President Obama in 2012, and Kevin Madden, a senior adviser to Mitt Romney – Joint Memo

## ***Dates to Remember***

November 16 to 20 – American Education Week  
 November 26 – Thanksgiving Day  
 December 2 – Special Education Day



## **Just For Families**

### Parent-to-Parent

Whether it's a newly diagnosed disability, a move, a change in home environment, sibling concerns or celebrations, every parent is an expert in their child's disability. Yes! Every parent has found at least one special way to help their child. Share these treasured moments and victories through the gift of time with other parents by volunteering to become a supporting parent. Families Together's Parent-to-Parent program matches supporting parents (who have experience raising a child with a disability) with referred parents who need someone to listen, encourage and support them. Referred parents request a match based on their individual child and family needs. Many times the match develops into a long-term friendship.

Every parent needs help from time to time and every parent can be of help. Families Together's Parent-to-Parent program matches supporting parents (who have experience raising a child with a disability) with referred parents who need someone to listen, encourage and support them. Referred parents request a match based on their individual child and family needs. True personal stories of families and their journey along with coping tips and helpful solutions to daily problems. Each family is different with different needs, but there is always someone who has gone through the same thing. Families Together has offices across the state to assist families in many ways. Contact information available at the website below.

Information taken from Families Together. <http://families-together-inc.org/index.php/full-width/programs/parent-to-parent/>  
 Submitted by Kim Page, 620-421-6550, ext. 1638, kpage@ku.edu



## Collaborative Calendar of Events

Check the KITS Collaborative Training Calendar for information on a variety of training events for Kansas early childhood professionals!



	EVENT / LOCATION	SPONSOR / CONTACT / REGISTRATION
11/13	<i>Kansas Infant-Toddler Services/tiny-k Coordinator Meeting</i>	Kansas Inservice Training System <a href="http://www.kskits.org/~kskits/cgi-bin/CollCal/EventListing.php">http://www.kskits.org/~kskits/cgi-bin/CollCal/EventListing.php</a>
11/13	<i>Eating with Ease...Managing Complex Feeding and Swallowing Problems in Children</i>	Easter Seals <a href="http://www.easterseals.com/capper/">www.easterseals.com/capper/</a>
11/18	<i>NAEYC 2015 Annual Conference &amp; Expo: The Power of the Profession</i>	NAEYC <a href="https://www.naeyc.org/conference/">https://www.naeyc.org/conference/</a>
12/2	<i>DEC Learning Deck Session: Successfully Facilitating Development Through Daily Routines</i>	Division of Early Childhood <a href="http://www.dec-sped.org/learningdecks">http://www.dec-sped.org/learningdecks</a>
12/2	<i>Zero To Three's 30th Annual National Training Institute: Connecting Science, Policy, and Practice</i>	Zero To Three <a href="https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/tab2.aspx?Event">https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/tab2.aspx?Event</a>
12/3	<i>Kansas Infant-Toddler/tiny-k Coordinator Connections</i>	Kansas Inservice Training System <a href="http://www.kskits.org/~kskits/cgi-bin/CollCal/EventListing.php">http://www.kskits.org/~kskits/cgi-bin/CollCal/EventListing.php</a>
12/3	<i>Social Emotional Development in the Early Years: Enriching Social Emotional Literacy</i>	University of Illinois <a href="https://conference.apps.mil/webconf/3a0561d3fb37d77db57b836e755a8d95">https://conference.apps.mil/webconf/3a0561d3fb37d77db57b836e755a8d95</a>
12/10	<i>Kansas Infant-Toddler Services/tiny-k Master Coach Regional Meeting</i>	Kansas Inservice Training System <a href="http://www.kskits.org/~kskits/cgi-bin/CollCal/EventListing.php">http://www.kskits.org/~kskits/cgi-bin/CollCal/EventListing.php</a>
1/15	<i>Kansas Infant-Toddler Services/tiny-k Coordinator Meeting via Webinar</i>	Kansas Inservice Training System <a href="http://www.kskits.org/~kskits/cgi-bin/CollCal/EventListing.php">http://www.kskits.org/~kskits/cgi-bin/CollCal/EventListing.php</a>
2/22	<i>34th Annual KDEC Conference</i>	Kansas Division for Early Childhood <a href="http://kdec.org/index.html">http://kdec.org/index.html</a>

**Did you know?**

Subscribers to the KITS Infant-Toddler or Preschool Program listservs receive informational emails about professional development opportunities, job openings, and other resources. Find out more or subscribe today at <http://kskits.org/listserv/>



### Newborn Hearing Screening Facts

- 🍂 About 1 to 3 babies of every 1,000 babies are born with a permanent hearing loss.
- 🍂 Hearing loss is the most common congenital condition in newborns.
- 🍂 The majority of children with hearing losses are born to parents who have normal hearing.
- 🍂 In the United States, 33 babies are born every day with a hearing loss.
- 🍂 There are many different types and degrees of hearing loss.
- 🍂 Children as young as one month of age can be fitted with hearing aids.
- 🍂 Most children with hearing losses have no other disability.
- 🍂 Prior to universal screening, the average age hearing loss was identified was 2-3 years. Children with mild to moderate hearing loss were often not identified until 4 years of age.

Taken from: <http://www.soundbeginnings.org/>



## Spotlight on the Routines Based Interview (RBI)

The KITS Early Childhood Resource Centers has recently acquired 3 additional copies of the Routines Based Interview. (RBI). Robin McWilliam is shown conducting an entire (Routines-Based Interview) RBI, along with the development of an ecomap. The family's informal outcomes from this interview are written as participation-based outcomes appropriate for an individualized family service plan. The video is annotated for use as a training tool, ideally accompanied by discussion, more materials, and expert information on how to conduct an RBI. More appropriate for deep exposure to the RBI than for general awareness.

The RBI(s) are available and may be borrowed from the KITS Early Childhood Resource Center. Contact Kim Page at [resourcecenter@ku.edu](mailto:resourcecenter@ku.edu) or (620) 421-6550, ext. 1638.

### Contact the KITS

#### Early Childhood Resource Center

(620) 421-6550 ext. 1651

Toll free in Kansas: (800) 362-0390 ext. 1651

Email: [resourcecenter@ku.edu](mailto:resourcecenter@ku.edu).

Our entire catalog is searchable online at [KITS ECRC](http://kisks.org/ecrc/) or <http://kisks.org/ecrc/>



## New Staff Coordinator for State Council

Matt Connell, chair of the Kansas Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Development Services, recently announced that Phoebe Rinkel has been hired as the new staff coordinator for the Council, replacing Doug Bowman who retired last spring. Phoebe will begin her new position November 23, 2016. Phoebe brings a depth of skills and experience related to council's mission of ensuring a comprehensive system of integrated services is available to all Kansas infants, toddlers and

preschoolers with, or at risk of, developmental delays, and their families. For the past 10 years, as technical assistance coordinator for the Kansas Inservice Training System, Phoebe collaborated with state agency personnel to support targeted improvement goals for the provision of Part C and Part B/619 services within the context of state and federal statutes and policies. She has worked with school districts, *tiny k* programs, Head Start and community preschools across the state to set and attain goals for improving the quality and effectiveness of their services for young children with special needs and their families. She has extensive experience collaborating with stakeholders across early childhood systems in Kansas.

Phoebe holds a Master's Degree in Family and Child Development with licensure in Early Childhood-Handicapped and as Supervisor/Coordinator of Special Education. In addition to her work with KITS, Phoebe's professional experience includes direct early intervention and special education services (classroom, community-based and home-based) for infants, toddlers, and young children with disabilities and their families. She also worked as an early childhood administrator, research assistant, inclusion facilitator, and coach.

"In my various professional roles, I have come to understand the IDEA through the perspective of families, practitioners, administrators, and state agency personnel. I have long appreciated the vital role of the state ICC in modeling a collaborative approach to identifying and responding to the needs of very young children with disabilities, their families, and the professionals that serve them in many different capacities. I am excited by the prospect of being able to use my skills and experience to continue to advance the work of the council at both the state and local levels. I'm particularly looking forward to supporting the work of local interagency coordinating councils, having seen what great things can be accomplished at the local level by committed community partners."

Contact Phoebe at [prinkel@kdeks.gov](mailto:prinkel@kdeks.gov) or through the SICC website: <http://www.kansasicc.org/>

## KITS ECO Resources Update

The re-organization of KITS ECO resources into separate web pages for Part C and Part B services has been completed. All users will still access *Kansas ECO Resources* from the KITS home page <http://www.kskits.org/> and be directed to an *Introduction to ECO in Kansas* where links will be provided to separate information and training for Part C and Part B/619 programs. New and updated resources have been added, including

- KITS Matrix on *Curriculum-Based Assessments for Measuring Kansas Early Childhood Outcomes* [http://www.kskits.org/ta/ECO\\_Outcomes\\_PartB\\_8](http://www.kskits.org/ta/ECO_Outcomes_PartB_8)

[\\_19\\_15/documents/ECO\\_CBA\\_matrix\\_8\\_18\\_15.pdf](#)

- *Kansas Early Childhood Outcomes: What Parents Should Know*  
[http://www.kskits.org/ta/ECO\\_Outcomes\\_PartB\\_8\\_19\\_15/documents/ECO%20\\_familyBrochure2015.doc](http://www.kskits.org/ta/ECO_Outcomes_PartB_8_19_15/documents/ECO%20_familyBrochure2015.doc)
- ECTA Center's *Outcomes for Children Served through IDEA's Early Childhood Programs 2012-2013*  
[http://www.kskits.org/ta/ECO\\_Outcomes\\_PartB\\_8\\_19\\_15/documents/childoutcomeshighlightsFFY2012.pdf](http://www.kskits.org/ta/ECO_Outcomes_PartB_8_19_15/documents/childoutcomeshighlightsFFY2012.pdf)
- ECTA/DaSy Centers' online training link to registration for *Child Outcomes Summary (COS) Process Module: Collecting and Using Data to Improve Programs*  
[https://unc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8k8MRoa4doTJDHT](https://unc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8k8MRoa4doTJDHT)

Submitted by Phoebe Rinkel, (785) 864-5550, [prinkel@ku.edu](mailto:prinkel@ku.edu)



## The Kansas Coalition for Effective Family Engagement

In April of 2014, Kansas Families and Schools Together, Inc. (KFAST) was awarded a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Kansas was very fortunate to be selected as 1 of 30 grantees among a pool of nearly 1,200 applicants. The project titled, *The Kansas Coalition for Effective Family Engagement (KCEFE)* supports families and strengthens early learning outcomes of vulnerable children by developing leadership and building capacity of families, community early childhood programs, schools and communities to work together to promote success.

The grant has focused on two goals: 1) To develop and disseminate state standards and guidance materials for family engagement in early childhood that are aligned and utilized across organizations and programs, and 2) To engage 10 Kansas counties for development of family engagement capacity at the local level.

Practitioners and representatives from early childhood organizations across Kansas developed the Kansas

Family Engagement and Partnerships Standards for Early Childhood to empower families to engage in their children's development and learning. The following standards were created:

- Families as Foundation
- Families as Advocates
- Families as Communicators
- Families as Partners
- Families as Community Members

For detailed descriptions, The Kansas Family Engagement and Partnership Standards for Early Childhood resource may be accessed at [www.kcefe.net](http://www.kcefe.net)

The 10 partner counties: Bourbon, Finney, Ford, Labette, Montgomery, Neosho, Seward, Shawnee, Woodson and Wyandotte have provided meaningful family engagement opportunities to promote the success for the children in their counties. Each county has implemented a variety of opportunities for family engagement that best meet the needs of their communities. Photos and descriptions of the projects have been posted at [www.facebook.com/www.kcefe.net](http://www.facebook.com/www.kcefe.net)

In addition to the two primary goals, the grant included an additional outcome: "to provide training on family engagement and family resiliency delivered across training providers with a consistent message, evidence informed content and teaching strategies". Two training manuals are being utilized:

- Kansas Children's Service League: *Strengthening Families* [www.elearning.kcsl.org/](http://www.elearning.kcsl.org/)
- Kansas Child Care Training Opportunities: *Family Partnerships* [www.kccto.org/programs/online-learning](http://www.kccto.org/programs/online-learning)

Both courses are offered at no charge for the duration of the grant. (February 28, 2017) To date, over 600 early childhood providers and professionals have taken advantage of this opportunity. To register for each of the classes go to the respective web sites.

For additional information, contact Barbara Gannaway at [bgannaway@kfast.net](mailto:bgannaway@kfast.net)

## DEC Recommended Practices Updated and Online: Now What???

The Early Childhood Technical Assistance (ECTA) Center has collaborated with the Division for Early Childhood (DEC) and the DEC Recommended Practices (RPs) Commissioners to develop products intended to promote the use of the new 2014 RPs. These products are intended to illustrate ways in which the eight RPs can be used by administrators, practitioners, and family members

and to assist with professional development and program improvement efforts. The DEC products are available online at no cost to members and non-members alike and include

- Performance checklists (promoting the use of RPs and self-assessment),
- Illustrations (links to video clips),
- Practice guides for practitioners and for families (in print and mobile formats), and
- Online modules for professional development (coming in 2016).

Each RP will have 3-5 checklists corresponding to subsets of practices identified for the topic area, with some overlap in addressing performance in other RP topic areas, as might be expected. Checklists are intended for self-reflection on use of RPs, not for monitoring practitioner performance. Video clips provide brief, authentic examples of identified practices within topic areas for early intervention and preschool special education. Practice guides for subsets within RP topic areas are being developed for two audiences: practitioners and family members. The purpose of the practice guides is to

- Describe the practice and explain its importance
- Illustrate how to do the practice using vignettes and video
- Include indicators that a practice is working
- Provide links to related resources

Although additional products are still in development, a number of performance checklists, video illustrations, and practice guides are currently available, along with the Recommended Practices themselves, for viewing or download from the ECTA Center website at <http://ectacenter.org/decrp/> See for example, RP Products By Topic: Transition <http://ectacenter.org/decrp/topic-transition.asp>

A supporting resource on the ECTA website is "aRPy's Corner", introducing aRPy, the official ambassador for the new DEC Recommended Practices, and archives of recent webinars on Recognizing and Performing the DEC RPs at <http://ectacenter.org/decrp/arp.asp>

The RPs, the RP Glossary, and three short DEC Recommended Practices videos are also available from the DEC website at <http://www.dec-sped.org/recommendedpractices> Start a discussion with providers or families about their perception of the RPs by viewing the 3-minute video, A DEC Safari at <http://ectacenter.org/decrp/topic-transition.asp> Submitted by Phoebe Rinkel, (785) 864-5550, [prinkel@ku.edu](mailto:prinkel@ku.edu)

## Coordinator's Corner

### Part C Infant-Toddler Services Report

### **Meets Requirements!!!!**

We are pleased to announce that Kansas Infant-Toddler Services obtained "Meets Requirements" status from the Office of Special Education Programs. For more information about this please see OSEP correspondence and other State Reports at: <http://www.ksits.org/publications.htm> Only 22 states and territories reached this status, down from 36 last year. Yay Kansas!

### **New staff members on our Part C team.**

We are very excited to welcome 2 new team members.

- Cathy Lyon joins our team as a Fiscal Analyst. She will be us conducting a top to bottom look at our System of Payments for Part C in Kansas, providing technical assistance to the local programs around finances and facilitating fiscal strategic planning.
- Barbara Kramer recently joined our team and is our Program Analyst. She is responsible for completing the SPP/APR, Compliance Monitoring and data management.

### **Social-Emotional Cross-State Learning Collaborative.**

KDHE and the SSIP team recently attended a technical assistance activity in Chicago, IL. The Learning Collaborative is assisting our state in realizing the results we are seeking through work of our State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) specifically, we are:

- connecting with peers who have succeeded in similar efforts, as well as those who are grappling with similar issues in their own contexts;
- receiving 1:1 TA from nationally recognized content experts; and
- exposing our team members to evidence-based practices

Specifically we have agreed to the following:

- Participate in the 1-2 face-to-face meetings per year of the Learning Collaborative,
- Ongoing virtual collaboration with other states working on similar issues as well as the National TA Center.

### **State Systemic Improvement Plan Update**

We have begun Phase II of the SSIP and are working closely with three designated programs to improve outcomes for children and families in our program. Attached, please find our Theory of Action as submitted during Phase I of our SSIP work. For a copy of the full SSIP see:

<http://www.ksits.org/publications.htm>

### **Conference Attendance**

Staff recently attended the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs

and Their Families sponsored by the Division for Early Childhood (DEC) of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). Kansas Part C was well-represented through at least two outstanding presentations by Local tiny-k programs.

- The Johnson County tiny-k program presented “Success of Primary Service Provider (PSP) Approach to Teaming = Team meetings”. Rumor has it their presentation brought M’Lisa Sheldon, one of the primary authors of this approach to tears with the good work they are doing.
- Not to be outdone, the Potawatomie Wabaunsee tiny-k program presented “Sustaining Real Relationships with Families Using Evidence-Based Practices in Early Intervention”. This was a follow-up to a presentation they did last year at the same conference.

### Fiscal Initiative

Staff from KDHE recently attended the first phase of a National Fiscal Initiative

The Infant Toddler Coordinators Association (ITCA), in collaboration with the Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (ECTA) and the National Center for Systemic Improvement (NCSI) requested applications for participation in two (two day) financing academies for five states. States will be required to bring a minimum of 3 staff, whose travel expenses would be covered by NCSI. The Part C Coordinator from each state is required to be one of the three state representatives. This attendance model is meant to provide more than one individual with specific fiscal knowledge and to reinforce the need for a fiscal team within the state Part C program.

The initiative focuses on the following:

- In-depth articulation of major funding sources with successful examples of state utilization;
- Identification of influence webs within state systems (e.g. state Medicaid director, state Managed Care Organization leadership, legislative champion(s));
- Strategic Finance Planning;
- Allocation and Distribution of Funds;
- Collection and Management of Resources; and
- Resource Accountability.

### Early Childhood Outcomes Measurement Process Integration into the Individualized Family Service Plan Process (IFSP)

KDHE took a big step in aligning our data system with the Early Childhood Outcomes Process and the IFSP process this summer. Starting July 1, 2015, all Early Childhood Outcomes Data is now part of our IFSP, which is part of our ITS Database. This will allow for a

more nimble data system, easier access to real time data and a process that is hopefully more meaningful to families and providers alike. To see what the updated IFSP form looks like:

<http://www.ksits.org/forms.htm> . A guidance document for families can be found at: [http://www.ksits.org/download/guidance\\_docs/A\\_Parents\\_Guide\\_to\\_Participating\\_in\\_the\\_Child\\_Outcomes\\_Process\\_with\\_Kansas\\_Addendum.pdf](http://www.ksits.org/download/guidance_docs/A_Parents_Guide_to_Participating_in_the_Child_Outcomes_Process_with_Kansas_Addendum.pdf)

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**Kansas  
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