

KANSAS INSERVICE TRAINING SYSTEM

Newsletter



Kansas Inservice Training System

Training for Early Childhood Professionals and Families

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The 5th Annual KITS Summer Institute

We are very excited about our upcoming Summer Institute, *Gathering Information and Instructional Planning: Effective Strategies for Inclusive Early Childhood Programs*, at the University of Kansas campus in Lawrence on June 23-26, 1998. The speakers that are coming have much to offer us as providers of early childhood services. Slots for this year's Summer Institute are filling up quickly, so if you haven't had an opportunity to apply, please do so as soon as possible. We don't want anyone to miss out on this wonderful opportunity!!

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Sneak Preview of Day One of KITS Summer Institute!

The literature on assessment continues to grow and change with new ideas, instruments and practices associated with it (Rainforth & York-Barr, 1997, Bredekamp, 1987, McAfee & Leong, 1994, Cook, Tessier & Klein, 1996, Foley, 1990, Hanson & Lynch, 1990). This presentation is designed to provide current information about assessment from the fields of early childhood education and early intervention/early childhood special education. It also seeks to address the assessment



challenges that teachers, early interventionists and auxiliary staff face daily. Practical ideas will be presented to assist teams in planning for assessment and integrating it into their varied schedules and responsibilities. Participants will learn how to implement the collaborative assessment process, which provides ongoing opportunities to collect and share information with one another regarding the children they serve (Greenspan & Meisels, 1994). Information will be presented in a combination of formats including: activities, small and large group discussion and lecture. An agenda of topics to be covered is listed below. The topics will be modified and/or enhanced by participants' questions, needs and areas of interest related to assessment. Consequently, participants are encouraged to bring their assessment

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TDAP Conference a Success!

Those who attended the Transitioning Into Developmentally Appropriate Practice: Preschool to Primary Conference (TDAP), shared good times and good food with other educators who gathered together in Wichita April 2-3. Two hundred and fifty early childhood and primary educators attended the conference this year. Many participants took the opportunity to visit various programs on their way to the Wichita Hilton, while others enjoyed a full day workshop and an evening eating chocolate and learning about DAP at the Chocolate Affair.

Overall, comments regarding the conference were positive. Participants were especially impressed with Nina Sazer O'Donnell, keynote speaker from the Families and Work Institute in New York City. Another favorite was Verna Nassif of Fort Hays State University, who shared information about getting schools ready for young children entering the system at age six. Beatrice "BZ" Fennimore from Indiana University in Pennsylvania was also very well received. In fact, plans are in the works to have a repeat performance by BZ in the fall (we'll keep you posted).

Many commented on the good food, high quality, and low cost of the conference. The planning committee worked diligently to find funds, ask favors, and pitch in, to create this exceptional conference. The planning committee is hard at work once again, gearing up for next year. Thanks to you that attended the conference. We look forward to seeing you next year.

Assistive Technology Conference 1998

The Fifth Annual Assistive Technology Conference: From Awareness to Access V has teamed up with The Heartland Seating and Mobility Conference to offer an opportunity for information and skills training in the areas of assistive technology. Strands include: Aging, Assistive Technology, Assessment, Augmentative Communication, Computer Access, Early Intervention, Education, Employment, Funding, Internet, Legal, Positioning, Recreation, Rural Issues, Seating and Sensory Adaptations. The Conferences will be held concurrently Thursday September 17 through Saturday September 19, 1998 at the Kansas ExpoCentre in Topeka. This highly successful annual conference, presented by the Capper Foundation and The Assistive Technology for Kansans Project, will include over 80 break-out sessions, over 50 vendors and a hands-on Learning Lab. Pre Conference workshops, September 17th, will include opportunities for half day and full day sessions. For registration brochures, costs, and lodging information, please call 913-272-0817 or 1-800-500-1034. An evening open house, free to all interested consumers and families, will be September 17th from 4-8 p.m., featuring the grand opening of the vendor hall.

Additional information is available on the conference web site:

<http://www.atk.lsi.ukans.edu>

SCHOOL'S OUT FOR SUMMER!

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