

KANSAS INSERVICE TRAINING SYSTEM

Newsletter



Kansas Inservice Training System

Training for Early Childhood Professionals and Families

Volume VII, Issue 2

Spring, 1998

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!!

continued on page 10

In this issue

KITS Summer Institute	1
TDAP Conference	2
Assistive Technology Conference	2
Parent to Parent Conference	4
Transition at Age 3	5
Why We Don't Hear Others	6
Exemplary Practice Programs	7
Kansas Early Head Start Expansion	8
State ICC Update	8
ACCK Annual Summer Seminar	9
KITS Summer Institute Application	9

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

continued on page 6

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!

KITS Newsletter is published quarterly (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter) and supported by a grant from the Kansas State Department of Education (Grant Number 9476). The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the State Department of Education, or the University of Kansas, and no official endorsement should be inferred.

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Calendar of Events

DATE	EVENT	CONTACT PERSON
May 7, 1998	<i>Kansas Children's Health Insurance Plan State-wide Briefing</i> Early Care & Education Leaders in Child Health Salina	Marcia Manter 913-894-6843
May 9, 1998	<i>Families Together Early Childhood Mini Conference</i> Kansas City	Sue Steele 913-962-9657
May 13, 1998	<i>NASDSE Satellite Conference: Honoring Diverse Learning Styles</i>	Sheryl Bieker 785-291-3097
May 21, 1998	<i>Natural Environments: Linking to the Community</i> NEC*TAS annual satellite conference Parsons, Oakley, Garden City, Topeka, Overland Park, Hutchinson	Robin Bayless 316-421-6550 ext. 1618
May 21, 1998	<i>ADHD and Behavior Disorders in Children</i> Salina	1-800-582-1428
May 29-June 1, 1998	<i>1998 International Parent to Parent Conference</i>	770-451-5484
June 1-3, 1998	<i>Supporting Young Children and Families Coping with Violence</i> Lindsborg	LeAnn Bravi 316-241-7754 ext. 111
June 2-4, 1998	<i>Region VII Head Start Association Training Conference</i> Kansas City	
June 3-5, 1998	<i>1998 Kansas Conference on Developmental Disabilities: The Future is Now</i> Wichita	785-266-6422
June 4-5, 8-12, 15-17, 1998	<i>Methods for Facilitating Infant Development</i> McPherson	LeAnn Bravi 316-241-7754 ext. 111
June 4-5, 8-12, 15-19, 22, 1998	<i>Communication Development and Communication Disorders</i> McPherson	LeAnn Bravi 316-241-7754 ext. 111
June 12-13, 1998	<i>Early Childhood Education Conference: The Creative Journey</i> Washburn University/Division of Continuing Education	Judith McConnell or Kathleen Leon 785-231-1010 ext. 1399
June 23-26, 1998	<i>5th Annual KITS Summer Institute--Effective Strategies for Inclusive Early Childhood Programs: Gathering Information and Instructional Planning</i> Lawrence	Misty Goosen 785-864-0725
July 8-9, 1998	<i>DAP from A to Z</i> by Anne Soderman Northwest Kansas Education Service Center, Oakley	Cindy Schroeder 785-672-3125 ext. 141
July 20-21, 1998	<i>Establishing DAP in the Primary Years: Offering Children Time, Choice, Responsibility and a Sense of Community</i> by David Burchfield Northwest Kansas Education Service Center, Oakley	Cindy Schroeder 785-672-3125 ext. 141
July 30-31, 1998	<i>KSDE & KASEA Special Education Leadership Conference</i> Manhattan	Kerry Ottlinger or Lisa Ingram 785-291-3098

continued on page 4

Calendar of Events continued

Sept. 17-19, 1998	<i>5th Annual Assistive Technology Conference: From Awareness to Access V</i> Topeka	1-800-500-1034
Oct. 1-3, 1998	<i>Kansas Head Start Association Training Conference/KAAYC</i> Wichita	Kim Moore 316-978-3258
Oct. 14-16, 1998	<i>Interhab Conference</i>	
Oct. 21-23, 1998	<i>22nd Annual Governor's Conference for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect</i> Topeka	785-274-3100
Oct. 29-30, 1998	<i>CEC Conference</i> Manhattan	
March 4-6, 1999	<i>KDEC Annual Conference</i> Lawrence	Esther Kottwitz 785-865-0022
April, 1999	<i>5th Annual Transitioning into Developmentally Appropriate Practices (TDAP) Conference</i> Wichita	Robin Bayless 316-421-6550 ext. 1618

FOR A LIST OF TRAININGS IN YOUR AREA RELATED TO CHILD CARE, CALL KCCTO AT 785-532-7197 OR 1-800-227-3578.

1998 INTERNATIONAL PARENT TO PARENT CONFERENCE

"Planting Seeds for Tomorrow" is the theme for the 1998 International Parent to Parent Conference scheduled for May 29 to June 1, 1998 in Atlanta, Georgia. Hosted by Parent to Parent of Georgia, and held at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel and the Georgia International Convention Center, the conference will bring together families and caregivers of children and adults with disabilities, chronic illness, and other special needs, along with professionals providing services to children and adults with disabilities and their families.

In order to provide opportunities for getting to know one another, sharing information, and rest and renewal, the conference will offer pre-conference sessions (3-hour workshops that focus on specific

how-to strategies); large group and smaller break-out sessions; poster sessions and an exhibit hall; a special session for making national Parent to Parent matches; and time for rest and renewal activities in and around Atlanta.

The main conference themes that will be addressed in the 60-80 workshop sessions are:

- * Family/Caregiving Support
- * Advocacy/Self-Determination
- * Community Support
- * Early Intervention/Education
- * Taking Care of Yourself
- * In Good Hands (for new parents)

Pre-conference opportunities in the areas of sibling support, respite care (in conjunction with

the National Respite Conference on May 28, 1998), and developing a statewide Parent to Parent program will also be a part of the conference.

Every effort is being made to keep the cost of attending the conference to a minimum and a limited number of scholarships for parents will be available through Parent to Parent of Georgia. Childcare will be provided for a fee throughout the conference.

For further information about this conference, please contact:

Parent to Parent of Georgia
2900 Woodcock Blvd. #240
Atlanta, GA 30341
(770) 451-5484
www.parenttoparentofga.org

-submitted by Betsy Santelli, Parent to Parent Project Coordinator

TASK FORCE WORKS ON TRANSITION AT AGE 3

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) has established procedures for transition with the goal of having a seamless service system for families. To work on achieving this goal, a task force meets regularly to discuss the Age 3 Transition. The group includes representatives from the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE), Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services (CCECDS), and the Kansas Inservice Training System (KITS).

This task force was formed late in 1996 to clarify policies and procedures to implement transition activities. Written material, "Age 3 Transition Information," was distributed in April 1997. This document includes citations from IDEA and other references, as well as 20 frequently asked questions. Roundtable discussions were presented on interactive television to provide additional guidance to the field in the spring of 1997.

The group met again in August to consider future initiatives. Jane Amundsen, with Early Childhood Initiatives in Colorado, facilitated this all-day meeting. Numerous ideas for further training and technical assistance were identified and discussed.

Activities implemented since then include the panel of KDHE, KSDE, and CCECDS representatives discussing transition at the annual CCECDS Community Fair in Wichita in October. Technical assistance has also been provided to several infant-toddler networks and their local education agencies. Another series of roundtable discussions over interactive television was provided in November and December.

Also last fall, KSDE held regional meetings with local districts to discuss changes in IDEA, including changes in requirements for staff during the transition to Part B Early Childhood Special Education services. At Infant-Toddler regional

meetings, KDHE representatives also encouraged local early intervention networks to contact their respective school districts to promote collaboration and development of local interagency agreements. Infant-Toddler Services has prepared two Technical Assistance Bulletins related to transition, and KITS has distributed a revised information packet on the Age 3 Transition.

At the Kansas Division for Early Childhood conference March 5-7, transition issues, requirements, and recommendations were facilitated by Doug Bowman with the assistance of other identified personnel from across the state.

In addition, on April 14 and 15 a statewide meeting was held with representatives from community networks, special education cooperatives and local education agencies across the state. Discussion centered around issues and "best practices" related to the Part C to Part B transition. This "mini-conference" was held at the Crosswinds Convention Center in Hesston, Kansas, with teams representing 6 different regions of the state. Participants received national, statewide and local resources related to the Part C to Part B transition to assist them in easing this process to continue to create our "seamless system" of services in Kansas. We received good feedback from the teams and plans are underway to continue these team meetings for other community, special education cooperatives and local education agencies across the state.

The task force continues to identify additional opportunities for continuous training activities. In addition, we have developed a side-by-side comparison of required and optional (best practice) transition activities. We are working on further written documentation for infant-toddler and early childhood special education service providers. For further information, please call any of the representative groups at 1-800-332-6262.

-submitted by Marnie Campbell

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