



Updates

Happy
New Year!

Volume 7, Issue 1

**January
2004**

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"REACH"

Rural Early Access to Children's Health Telehealth Services in New Mexico

by Sandy Heimerl and Deborah C. Hall

UNM's Center for Development and Disability is partnering with over 10 early intervention and community providers from around the State to bring developmental evaluation services, consultation and training to rural communities in New Mexico in a new way. We were fortunate to have been awarded recently one of 16 grants nationally from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Office for the Advancement of Telehealth (OAT). The network, Rural Early Access to Children's Health (REACH), will establish a sustainable community-based telehealth network to support medical and developmental services in rural areas of New Mexico. The use of video-conferencing technology will allow long distance evaluation and consultation for the developmental and medical needs of children 0-6 years old with special needs.



The communities and programs involved include;

- Children's Workshop - Raton,
- CARC - Carlsbad,
- DSI - Gallup,
- Growing in Beauty - Farmington,
- Hidalgo Medical Center - Lordsburg,
- Life Quest - Silver City,
- New Vistas - Santa Fe,
- Tobosa - Roswell,
- Tresco TOTs - Las Cruces, and
- Zia Therapy - Alamogordo.

The goals of REACH are to:

- ❶ provide accessible and ongoing developmental specialty care to young children, their families and the providers who serve them;
- ❷ expand and improve the quality of information and training to providers and families; and
- ❸ link providers and families Statewide to share information and resources.

The project will use two types of technology; T1 line videoconferencing, offering high quality visual and audio interactive encounters, and videophone technology, offering a portable and versatile way to videoconference from a client's home or other location. The initial steps in the project will allow us to test out the technology for a variety of types of care and training, to evaluate its use, and to establish ways to sustain our ability to offer services and support the community by this method.

Nationwide, the challenge of under-funded healthcare systems and limited access to needed care in rural areas has meant that families must routinely seek care outside their communities at personal expense. Telemedicine technology has been in existence since the 1970s, and has been becoming slowly more affordable and available. UNM's Center for Development and Disability would like to see this become one tool that can be used to support families and providers in their rural communities, providing access that people might not be able to have without great expense in both time and money.



For more information, please call Sandy Heimerl at (505) 272-0096, sheimerl@salud.unm.edu or Deborah C. Hall (505) 265-9162, debchall@earthlink.net

Announcements



Position Openings at the CDD

Division of Early Childhood Specialized
and Personnel Development

The Early Childhood Evaluation Program has posted an opening for Manager of Clinical Therapy Programs. In addition to having experience and licensure in evaluating young children for cognitive, motor, or communication development, the person filling this position would also have supervisory experience.

The Early Childhood Network has posted an opening for Family Specialist, an individual who has experience in parenting a child with special needs and working with multiple systems. If interested in either of these positions, please check out specifics on the UNM website at: <http://www3.unm.edu/fin/Posting/jobopenings.cfm>

Transitions....

As of December 1, 2003, ECEP's Dr. Elizabeth (Mopsy) Matthews became the co-medical director of Children's Medical Services. She will share this position with Dr. Evelyn Oden. Fortunately, Dr. Matthews will continue with ECEP as well! *Congratulations Mopsy!*

While Dr. Brian Lopez will continue working with the ECEP team, his role has expanded as a faculty member in UNM's Department of Pediatrics. Here he will be addressing broader research and autism issues at the CDD as well. *Congratulations Brian!*

New ECEP Staff!



Guess Who?

Frank Faustine, speech/communication therapist, has recently joined the staff at ECEP. If you think you know him from somewhere, you probably do! Most recently he has been working with the schools in Los Lunas and programs out in Zuni, New Mexico, as well as with Casa Angelica in Albuquerque. He has always enjoyed working with children who have "challenging" behaviors and is gifted in his ability to relate to all children on various levels.



Frank is excited to have the opportunity to work with the ECEP team, contribute to the program and the families it serves. Please feel free to contact Frank by email at ffaustine@salud.unm.edu or call at 272-1916.

Nancy C. Rasch OTR, BCP, is a registered occupational therapist and board certified as a specialist in pediatrics. She has joined the ECEP team recently as a staff member and will serve as a coordinator for the Southwest sector of the State. Having worked with the ECEP team for the past year as a contract sensorimotor evaluator, she has enjoyed the role of helping families and service providers gain more knowledge about the children in their lives. Her experience has encompassed working with children with sensory integrative, neurodevelopmental and feeding disorders, as well as other medical complexities. Important to Nancy is an integrated team philosophy that places the child and family central to the provision of services. Please feel free to contact Nancy by email at nrasch@salud.unm.edu or call at 272-1925.

Using Videotape to Augment the Evaluation of Children When There is a Question of an Autism Spectrum Diagnosis

by Monica Armas Aragon

The best way to understand the development of infants and young children is to observe their behavior in a variety of settings while they are interacting with familiar people. When the Early Childhood Evaluation Program (ECEP) participates in an evaluation, it is for a short period of time and often done in an unfamiliar setting. In order to address this limitation, ECEP wants to begin to include videotaped behavior of the child in natural settings as part of the evaluation process.

ECEP will begin working with service coordinators to assist parents in videotaping their children in a variety of settings and participating in various activities. The videotaping would focus on the specific situations, behaviors and activities that parents are most concerned about and want the ECEP evaluation team to see. Parents will be asked to videotape each activity or situation for about 3-5 minutes for a total time of about 15 minutes. This videotape will be a useful tool in gaining a better understanding of the child and the parents' concerns and will ultimately provide for a more comprehensive evaluation. If you should have any questions, please contact Monica by email at maaragon@salud.unm.edu or call 272-9846.



PLEASE POST

January 2004

EARLY INTERVENTION WORKSHOP CALENDAR

Month	Workshop	Location	Contact
January 21, 2004	<i>FIT Orientation to Part C</i>	<i>Las Cruces</i>	<i>FIT Regional Coordinator: Kathleen Trumbull 525-9673</i>
February 4, 2004	<i>FIT Orientation to Part C</i>	<i>Albuquerque</i>	<i>FIT Regional Coordinator: Sherri Davidman 256-1224</i>
February 10, 2004	<i><u>Service Coordination</u> Module 1</i>	<i>Las Cruces</i>	<i>FIT Program: Doreen Sansom 827-2162</i>
March 11, 2004	<i>FIT Orientation to Part C</i>	<i>Espanola</i>	<i>FIT Regional Coordinator: Anna Marie Garcia 753-2416</i>
March 23, 2004 March 24, 2004	<i><u>Service Coordination</u> Module 2 Module 3</i>	<i>Las Cruces</i>	<i>FIT Program: Doreen Sansom 827-2162</i>
April 2, 2004	<i>FIT Orientation to Part C</i>	<i>Artesia</i>	<i>FIT Regional Coordinator: Deb Glass 746-8747</i>
April (TBA) 2004	<i><u>Service Coordination</u> Module 4</i>	<i>Las Cruces</i>	<i>FIT Program: Doreen Sansom 827-2162</i>
May 13, 2004	<i>FIT Orientation to Part C</i>	<i>Farmington</i>	<i>FIT Regional Coordinator: Deb McCue 265-9414</i>

SERVICE COORDINATION modules are required for all new Service Coordinators working in Early Intervention programs.

It is highly recommended that these modules be taken in order, if at all possible.



NMAEYC 2004 Annual Spring Conference

The FIT Program is excited to announce a new partnership with New Mexico Association for the Education of Young Children (NMAEYC) by adding a “Magic Years” strand to their annual spring conference. The conference will take place on **Saturday, March 6, 2004, at the Albuquerque Convention Center**. The Magic Years strand will include sessions focused on early intervention family-centered services for infants, toddlers and their families in natural environments. Over 60 seminars will be offered at the conference on various topics including; family child care, advocacy and public policy, assessment, brain research, literacy and many others.

Call Today!

Early Bird registration for members is \$55.00, and \$70.00 for non-members if you register by **January 31, 2004**. Scholarships are available. For more information on registration fees or to receive a registration form, please contact Bobbie Bailey at (505) 823-1351 or 1-877-774-KIDS.

Revised ECEP Regional Contacts for Evaluation Referrals

Revised

ECEP staff are available to answer your questions and assist you with completing and submitting your referral packets and scheduling your evaluation clinics.

Monica Aragon	(505) 272-9846	ABQ Metro Northeast Northwest
Nancy Rasch	(505) 272-1925	Southwest
Pam Segel	(505) 272-2587	Southeast

Please feel free to contact your regional staff with any questions or referrals. ***Monica speaks Spanish and will be the contact for Spanish-speaking families Statewide.***

FAQs



Q: What is a criterion-referenced developmental assessment?

A: A criterion-referenced developmental assessment is a measure of a child’s performance as it relates to a stated standard or *criterion*. The criteria defines what the particular set of skills or behaviors looks like when performed. Credit is given when the child demonstrates the learning, accomplishment or mastery of that particular skill/behavior. The skills/behaviors are organized sequentially within developmental areas or domains; cognitive, motor, social-emotional, language/communication and adaptive. The sequential order of these skills/behaviors is drawn from a variety of growth and development sources. Each item in the assessment offers information about the nature of the specific task/behavior and relates to planning next steps. Criterion-referenced developmental assessments yield *approximate* or *estimated* developmental age ranges within areas of development. Their purpose is to identify curriculum goals, outcomes, strategies and activities for the child and family.

Typically, a criterion-referenced developmental assessment tool is linked to a curriculum. The curriculum may be integrated into the assessment itself or be compatible with another curriculum. This is why criterion-referenced developmental assessments are also referred to as *curriculum-based* assessments. A few examples of criterion-referenced or curriculum-based assessments used in early intervention are:

- ◆ AEPS – Assessment Evaluation and Programming System for Infants and Children
- ◆ The Carolina Curriculum for Infants & Toddlers with Special Needs (2nd Ed.)
- ◆ HELP – Hawaii Early Learning Profile

There are many advantages of using this type of assessment. It allows us to:

- ① learn what a child *can* do;
- ② offer adaptations for various special needs;
- ③ involve the family and other team members informally over time;
- ④ monitor growth and change step-by-step; and
- ⑤ connect directly with possible outcomes and service delivery planning.

References: Bagnato, S.J., Neisworth, J.T., & Munson, S.M. (1997). *Linking assessment and early intervention*. Baltimore: Paul H. Brookes Publishing.

***If you have any questions, contact:
Mary Zaremba at 272-1042.***

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CDD Resource Center (LINC) 1-800-827-6380 or 272-0281
Visit our Website at <http://cdd.unm.edu/ec>

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