

Annotated Bibliography of Early Intervention Web Sites

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Introduction

Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires each State and jurisdiction to develop a Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) (U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, 1997). Each state must develop a system to insure that personnel providing services to infants and toddlers and their families possess the appropriate skills needed to provide service in a comprehensive, family centered, culturally competent, and community-based system of care. The design of the CSPD should also assist the provider in identifying professional growth activities for acquiring and adopting contemporary practices of service delivery. The District of Columbia's Early Intervention Program (DCEIP) initiated the DC CSPD and designed it to be a comprehensive, cohesive approach to capacity building for service providers. DC CSPD also established the District of Columbia's Early Intervention (DCEI) Credentialing System and in collaboration with Zero to Three the DCEIP Service Coordinators Training Program (SCTP).

There are literally thousands of web sites available that provide information about early intervention, special education, child development, etc. The descriptions of sites contained in this *Annotated Bibliography of Early Intervention Web Sites* will assist providers in their search for evidence based early intervention practices. Providers will be able to target their search for information that supports contemporary service delivery.

This bibliography is divided into the six competency areas required by the DCEI Credentialing program: *Infants and Toddlers with Special Needs, Interaction with Families, Legal Mandates, Regulations, and Administration, Evaluation and Assessment, Individualized Family Service Plan, Program Implementation*. This is by no means an exhaustive bibliography. If you have a favorite web site that you would like to see included please feel free to share that information. As with other products developed by the DC CSPD this bibliography will be updated regularly.

Using this manual may assist the reader in completing certain credentialing criteria, but does not guarantee that the District of Columbia's Early Intervention Program, Comprehensive System of Personnel Development reviewers will automatically accept these resources as satisfying credentialing requirements.

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Infants and Toddlers with Special Needs

Ages and Stages: Birth to 12 months

www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/PM1530A.pdf

This website features a publication from the Iowa State University Extension program that presents information about the physical, mental, emotional and social development of children between birth and 12 months of age. The site also gives ideas and tips for parents to facilitate these milestones. It is organized as a quick reference guide for parents rather than an extremely detailed presentation of typical development.

American Academy of Pediatrics

<http://aappolicy.aappublications.org>

This site includes policy statements and guidelines developed by the AAP. For example, it offers guidelines for the individualized discharge planning of high-risk neonates. Another statement found on the website includes long-term effects of neonatal pain. This site also offers links to printable handouts for parents that provide important health messages based on these statements.

American Psychological Association

www.apa.org/topics

This site features a listing of various psychological topics and issues that affect children. Examples of topics discussed include bullying, depression, learning and memory, ADHD, and shyness. Each topic page provides many links to news press releases and current research updates on the issue. Also included are links for books and resources about various topics for children and/or adults. The site also includes a link to some professional psychology journals published by the APA.

Brain Connection

www.brainconnection.com

Brainconnection.com is dedicated to providing accessible, high-quality information about how the brain works and how people learn. The site includes information about education and conferences. Also includes a resource library, brain teasers and a market place to purchase products.

Early Childhood Research & Practice (ECRP)

www.ecrp.uiuc.edu

This is the website of a peer-reviewed, bilingual electronic journal sponsored by the ERIC Clearinghouse on Elementary and Early Childhood Education (ERIC/EECE) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. It covers topics related to the development, care, and education of children from birth to approximately age eight. ECRP emphasizes articles reporting on practice-related research and development, and on issues related to practice, parent participation, and policy. ECRP also includes articles and essays that present opinions and reflections, and letters to the editor.

East Tennessee Children's Hospital: Developmental Milestones

www.etch.com/healthdevms.cfm

This site presents a brief overview of typical developmental milestones from birth to 15 months. The site presents typical developmental skills at each age as well as some possible problems that may be noted at each age. It provides a nice comparison of typical versus atypical development and helps parents know some of the signs to look for to suggest that something might be interfering with their baby's development. The site also provides links to information about feeding and swallowing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and language development.

Karolinska Institutet

www.mic.ki.se/Diseases/G02.html

From the Karolinska Institutet in Sweden this site contains information on many different diagnoses and conditions with specific categories for congenital, hereditary, and neonatal diseases and abnormalities. The web site is for medical professionals and the general public, although it appears that most of the research/information is written for medical professionals, as the language is quite sophisticated. There are also links to support sites for parents.

Infants & Toddlers with Special Needs

Kennedy Krieger Institute www.kennedykrieger.org

This site features information on a wide variety of diagnoses and conditions that affect young children. The site also contains information about the various school and clinical programs available at the institute. In addition, a news and events link is available for readers to find out about current conferences and other activities at Kennedy Krieger.

Kid Source www.kidsource.com

Taken from the US Department of Education, this site defines early intervention, provides support for intervening as early as a disability or developmental difficulty has been identified. The site also contains a basic, however, limited reference list.

Pediatric Development and Behavior www.dbpeds.org

This site is an independent web site created to promote better care and outcomes for children and families affected by developmental, learning, and behavioral problems by providing access to clinically relevant information and educational material for medical providers, other service delivery professionals and parents.

Speech and Language Development in Young Children http://members.tripod.com/Caroline_Bowen/level1.htm

This site presents information about the acquisition of language in early childhood. Information is given about how language is learned and the role of the parent in facilitating these skills. Language and communication milestones are presented as well as a section about when to seek professional help.

Zero to Three www.zerotothree.org

Zero to Three is a national, non-profit organization whose mission is to promote the healthy development of infants and toddlers by supporting and strengthening families, communities, and those who work on their behalf. Included on the website are various policies, research reports, and technical assistance. There are two major components of this website, one for parents and the other for professionals. There is a great deal of information on early intervention and typical development that can be downloaded. This site also provides information in Spanish and an online bookstore.

Autism

AutismInfo.com www.autisminfo.com

This site provides detailed information about autism including current research efforts and resources about treatment options. A link is provided for information about Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) as well as medical and dietary interventions. The site includes links to a number of professional organizations devoted to autism. This site has the capability to be translated into Chinese, Spanish, French, Portuguese, German, Japanese, Italian, or Korean.

Autism and Pervasive Developmental Disorders <http://autism.about.com>

This website presents information on a variety of topics related to autism. Overview of autism, frequently asked questions about autism, and common characteristics of children with autism are provided. In addition, many links to treatment options are available. Readers can opt to sign up for a free newsletter on this site as well. The site also posts information about current research issues related to autism.

Autism Society of America www.autism-society.org

This site contains an Autism Info link that provides information on diagnosis, treatments, and other issues related to living with autism such as sibling issues and family stress. A link is also provided that directs the reader to a page with information about autism in Spanish. This site contains many links for additional resources as well as links to local chapters of the society.

Autism Speaks www.autismspeaks.org

Autism Speaks is dedicated to helping families find answers, through funding research and education efforts and, most significantly, by spearheading the development of a national registry of individuals with autism. The lack of such a registry makes research all the more difficult and costly. The Autism Speaks website aims to be a vital resource for anyone seeking information about autism.

Center for the Study of Autism

www.autism.org

This site contains information about autism and related disorders including diagnostic information and information about treatments available. Information is provided in English, Spanish, Korean, Chinese, Japanese, and Italian. The site includes many links to additional resources. A special section focuses on issues related to having a sibling with autism.

Bright Tots

www.brighttots.com/Resourcehome.html

This website is a resource site for parents of children with a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder. It contains information about developmental milestones and intervention services available. It also includes general articles about autism.

National Institute of Mental Health

www.nimh.nih.gov/publicat/autism.cfm

This site presents detailed information about autism and other pervasive developmental disorders. It presents information about how autism is diagnosed, possible indicators that a child may be autistic, and treatment options including medications and dietary interventions. The site also discusses medical problems that may co-occur with autism such as seizures. In addition, a section is provided on autism spectrum disorders in adults.

National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities: Autism Information Center

www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/dd/ddautism.htm

This site is maintained by a division of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. The site provides information about the diagnosis, causes, prevalence, and treatments of autism spectrum disorders. Many links are provided for readers to learn more about autism. A unique feature of this site is a link to the Autism Spectrum Disorders Kids' Quest. Kids' Quest is a series of informative sites provided by the NCBDDD for the purpose of educating children about developmental disabilities. The site also provides information about current research by the CDC and other federal agencies about autism spectrum disorders. Also included is a link for information regarding various state funding programs for autism spectrum disorders.

Cerebral Palsy

Cerebral Palsy: Hope Through Research

www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/cerebral_palsy/detail_cerebral_palsy.htm

This site discusses diagnostic questions related to cerebral palsy. It includes questions related to causes and treatments available. In addition, it provides information about current research projects being conducted about cerebral palsy. Information is also available in Spanish.

Cerebral Palsy-Neurology Channel

www.neurologychannel.com/cerebralpalsy

This site includes information about cerebral palsy including types, causes, treatments, risk factors, complications, and prognosis. Information about orthopedic and neurological surgeries for cerebral palsy is also available.

Cerebral Palsy, Erbs Palsy, All Types of Cerebral Palsy

www.cerebralpalsy.org

This site provides information about causes, risk factors, and types of cerebral palsy. Information about Erbs palsy and other brachial plexus injuries is also given. Links and resources about types of help available and how to find help are given. Treatment interventions for cerebral palsy as well as special education issues are also discussed.

Children's Disabilities and Special Needs

www.comeunity.com/disability/cerebral_palsy

This site contains general articles related to cerebral palsy. Also included are articles about research about cerebral palsy in children born prematurely. Links to books and resources are also provided.

CP Resource Center

www.twinenterprises.com/cp

This site is a general information site about cerebral palsy, its causes and some treatments. The site contains a dictionary to help parents in understanding medical terms they may hear. A list of books is also available for further reading. The site speaks specifically about periventricular leukomalacia (PVL) and its relation to CP. Hippotherapy is also discussed as a treatment option.

Kids Health For Kids: Cerebral Palsy

http://kidshealth.org/kid/health_problems/brain/cerebral_palsy.html

This is a great site for children to learn about cerebral palsy. It describes the types of cerebral palsy and how it is diagnosed and treated. This site could be useful to help explain cerebral palsy to a sibling of a child recently diagnosed or to help a child with cerebral palsy understand his or her condition at an older age.

Down Syndrome

Down Syndrome: Health Issues

www.ds-health.com

This site is for parents and professionals. It includes articles related to specific health issues related to Down syndrome such as gastroesophageal reflux, blood disorders, and thyroid function. Articles relating to services available in the treatment of Down syndrome are also available. Information about health guidelines and controversies in care of children and adults with Down syndrome is also provided.

Down Syndrome: Understanding the Gift of Life

www.nas.com/downsyn

This webpage is for and by families with members who have Down syndrome. The site includes listings of organizations, support groups, events and conferences, inclusion & educational resources, healthcare guidelines, family essays, FAQ's, medical articles, and a toy store.

National Down Syndrome Society

www.ndss.org

This site provides information about diagnosis, causes, and treatment of Down syndrome. It also includes a link to find resources such as books, videos, and articles about Down syndrome. The website also discusses health and education issues related to Down syndrome.

Infant Mental Health

Administration on Children and Families, Head Start Information

www.headstartinfo.org

This site contains a wealth of information on the Head Start and Early Head Start program. A component is dedicated to early childhood mental health and contains a variety of professional and consumer resources including descriptions of

programs (research and child serving), listings of journals, books, reading materials. A special feature is The Mental Health Toolkit that is an annotated bibliography of a variety of articles, books, and federal programs, services and publications.

Bright Futures at Georgetown University

www.brightfutures.org/mentalhealth

This site explains the Bright Futures two volume set of materials that help providers operationalize the guidelines for mental health promotion in children. The site also contains materials to download: a mental health fact sheet, a listing of supporting organizations and training tools.

Early Childhood Supports & Services

www.ecssla.org

Sponsored by the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals this site dedicates a page to the area of infant mental health. Warning signs, myths and the importance of infant mental health are presented in consumer friendly terms.

The Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health

www.ffcmh.org

A family-run organization dedicated exclusively to helping children with mental health needs and their families achieve a better quality of life. The organization provides leadership to develop and sustain a nationwide network of family-run organizations, focuses on changing how systems respond to children with mental health needs and their families, and assists policy-makers, agencies, and providers become more effective in delivering services and supports that foster healthy emotional development for all children. The site has listings of resources, training materials and family support materials.

Infant Mental Health

<http://mental-health.online-advice.com>

A listing of links, web sites, and resource material on a variety of issues related to mental health. Extensive listing of federal, state and community programs that provide information on services.

Research and Training Center on Family Support and Children's Mental Health

www.rtc.pdx.edu

This federally funded RTC is dedicated to promoting effective community-based, culturally competent, family-centered services for families and their children who are, or may be affected by

mental, emotional or behavioral disorders. The Center conducts collaborative research with family members, service providers, policy makers, etc. The RTC maintains a number of resources for families and professionals including: monographs, articles, issue briefs. The RTC offers an annual conference, on-line discussions, and online resource list, links, and tools.

Zero to Three: Infant Mental Health Resource Center www.zerotothree.org/imh

Zero to Three helps to build the field of infant mental health research, practice and policy through scientific debate, professional education, program consultation, leadership development, public awareness, parent education, policy analysis and development, and publishing. This site contains information on the infant mental health diagnostic classification system, training programs, and resources.

Prematurity

(also see Program Implementation section)

Apnea of Prematurity

www.emedicine.com/ped/topic1157.htm

This site offers journal articles on-line. There is one article on apnea of prematurity that includes: background, definition and classifications of apnea, periodic breathing, and pathophysiology. The article is educational and is written for healthcare professionals and non-healthcare professionals to understand.

Emory Pediatrics Developmental Progress Clinic <http://med.emory.edu/PEDIATRICS/NEONATOLOGY/DPC/index.htm>

This is an Emory University website that targets physicians, healthcare professionals, and parents regarding neonatology. The site covers information regarding medical complications with implications for development, other neonatal medical complications associated with developmental problems, developmental care in the NICU, neurodevelopmental implications of neonatal trauma, developmental milestones specifically for children born prematurely, information regarding issues beyond infancy, Georgia state resources, frequently asked questions and answers, and web links.

Family Practice Notebook

www.fpnotebook.com/NICCH16.htm

The family practice notebook site provides information on the outcomes of infants born prematurely. It presents a formula for predicting survival and morbidity rates and examples from 23-30 weeks gestation. It also gives neurological outcomes for 24-26 weeks gestation and links to the references that support these outcomes.

March of Dimes

www.marchofdimes.com

This is the official website for the organization that addresses issues relating to newborns, prematurity, birth defects, and low birth weight. There are sections targeted to parents, professionals, and researchers. The website is useful for parents as it gives an overview of prematurity, complications and causes of prematurity, outcomes for preterm infants, risk factors for preterm labor. Also, a review of medical and nursing literature is compiled to present an overview of preterm labor and delivery and may be of interest to providers. There are also pages for healthcare providers and expectant couples. There is also a summary of current research initiatives and statistics on premature birth. Expectant couples can learn the signs of preterm labor, risk factors, and ways to reduce the risks of preterm labor.

Mayo Clinic: Premature Birth

www.mayoclinic.com/invoke.cfm?objectid=DB81ABF4-378D-453B-AFD7BF32AD6F01E7

This site was developed by the Mayo Foundation. Information related to prematurity such as causes of premature delivery, signs and symptoms during pregnancy, and when to seek medical help are provided here. There is also information on the difficulties a child born prematurely may have, the course of care they will receive in the NICU (including a diagram of an infant hooked up to several pieces of equipment that may be utilized while receiving care), and what to expect upon discharge.

Medline Plus: Premature Babies

www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/prematurebabies.html

This is a resource for healthcare professionals. There are sections on drug information, an encyclopedia, a dictionary, news pages, and other resources. Current links are available under the headings of latest news, general/overview, clinical

Infants & Toddlers with Special Needs

trials, coping, diagnosis/symptoms, nutrition, research, specific conditions/aspects, treatment, directories, organizations, and statistics. Several of the links from this website, such as one on car seat safety for premature infants, could be printed out and shared with parents.

Premature-infant.com

<http://premature-infant.com>

This website has touching stories and supportive information for parents, along with insights for medical personnel. Most of the information is parent-friendly. There are resource links to related problems/concerns. There is also information regarding GERD, infant massage, kangaroo care, positioning, pain, RSV, and feeding issues.

The Vermont Oxford

www.vtoxford.org

This site provides information for the institutions that participate in its database. The database tracks the progress of high-risk infants within certain criteria and provides good statistical analysis and research options to those who participate. This site repeatedly stresses the importance of multidisciplinary teamwork and takes into account all the perspectives of those involved with the care of neonates. It offers information on clinical trials, publications and presentations, and special projects. A unique focus is placed on the initiatives in quality, safety, and continuous improvement of NICUs.

Sensory Impairments

Collaborative Early Intervention National Training e-Resource

<http://center.uncg.edu/index.asp>

The target audience for this website is professionals who serve families with infants and toddlers who are deaf or hard of hearing. This website provides an overview of hearing loss and communication options. It provides graduate level web-based training for service providers. The website also offers an extensive list of resources for professionals and families and an annotated bibliography pertaining to communication choices, early intervention, family involvement, and implications for development.

Early Intervention Bibliography

www.tr.wou.edu/dblink/lib/resources.htm

From the National Informational Clearinghouse on Children Who are Deaf-Blind, this site links to information about Deaf-Blindness, Disability, Education and Technical Assistance, Technology, and Medical and Health. Bibliographic sources are relevant to any disability.

Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center

<http://clerccenter.gallaudet.edu/infotogo>

This site is from the Laurent Clerc Center at Gallaudet University. It provides information about many topics related to deafness or hearing loss. It provides information about assistive devices and hearing aids available for children with hearing problems. Many resources are included about where to go for information about learning sign language or speech reading. A section is also included about classroom issues related to educating a child who is deaf. Information is also provided for children and parents about deafness and issues surrounding the condition.

Interactions with Families

BabyCenter

www.babycenter.com

BabyCenter is an online resource for new and expectant parents. The site includes weekly email newsletters about development from pregnancy to age three. Topics related to pregnancy and early development as well as chat groups are available. The site allows the viewer to log on with her due date or baby's age to get information on parenting news, product recalls, features, and expert advice.

Bayside Health System: Understanding Your Preemie

<http://baystatehealth.com>

This site contains information on the following areas: how your baby communicates, preemie development (description of typical behaviors observed in infants born less than 26 weeks, 26-28 weeks, 28-30 weeks, 30-33 weeks, 33-36 weeks, and 36 to 40 weeks), signs of stress, respirations, minimal stimulation, positioning, kangaroo care, and multiple bedding. The information is written in a summary format for parents. The authors of the site cover each topic well with general information that is easy to follow. The site reviews signs of stress in all body systems including the autonomic, motor, and state system that can help physical therapists understand how much handling is tolerated by the infant. This site also defines and describes the benefits of kangaroo care. There is a glossary and links to other sites.

BLISS

www.bliss.org.uk

This website was created by parents and is mainly aimed at parents and families. It provides information about causes of prematurity and levels of neonatal care. Sections that may be especially helpful to parents are those that pertain to neonatal equipment, medical procedures, feeding, and coming home. There are parent information boards with chat rooms on topics such as NICU care, problems encountered by the premature infant, and discharge issues. Information on current research and training seminars for health professionals, primarily the NICU nurse is

available. There are several informational pamphlets available to download. Photos are included. This site also describes the number of specialists and support staff, which may be involved in the infant's care.

Bureau of Primary Health Care

www.bphc.hrsa.gov/culturalcompetence

Through a variety of stories this site illustrates a variety of values and principles that are necessary to appreciate and understand to provide culturally competent care to individuals with disabilities or special health care needs.

The Calgary Regional NICU/SCN

Parents in Partnership

www.parentsinpartnership.ca

This is the official site of the Calgary Regional NICU/SCN Parents in Partnership. It includes newsletter articles from The Early Addition published by the Partnership, links to numerous preemie web sites, and a list of books and videos. The site also includes a message board.

Children's Disabilities Information

www.childrensdisabilities.info/prematurity/followup.html

As a support site for parents this site contains articles, lists of books, and web links on premies and prematurity. One article discusses how to interact and provide support for your infant while in the NICU. Another is about follow-up care for pre-term infants who are at high risk for delays. The site has several links for parents of children with disabilities including parenting children with special needs, articles on several disorders, and support network links. The site contains general information written in easily understood terms.

CulturedMed

www.sunyit.edu/library/html/culturedmed

The SUNY Institute of Technology library is the home of "CulturedMed", a web site promoting culturally-competent health care for refugees and immigrants. This project supports the health care community and newcomers to our country by providing practical information regarding culture and health care. The

Interactions with Families

bibliographies and links found on the web site contain items on health beliefs or ethnographic information about various ethnic groups. There are also topical bibliographies such as cultural aspects of food and nutrition, domestic violence and culture, and cultural aspects of death and dying. Bibliographies may also include items dealing with culture-bound symptoms, medical anthropology, and traditional or folk medicine.

Disability Is Natural

www.disabilityisnatural.com

This website contains thought-provoking articles, products, books, videos to promote new ways of thinking about inclusion and disability.

The Family Village

www.familyvillage.wisc.edu/lib_prem.htm

This site contains information for parents with premature infants to obtain support. The site also offers chat rooms, web boards, personal accounts, additional information links and additional sites for parents to find further information.

Family Voices

www.familyvoices.org

This is the web site for Family Voices a national, grassroots clearinghouse for information and education concerning the health care of children with special health needs. The site links you to all state chapters and the various projects the organization conducts.

Kid's Health for Parents

http://kidshealth.org/parent/system/ill/nicu_caring.html

Sponsored by the Nemours Foundation this site contains a variety of sections including, When Your Baby is in the NICU, Medical Care in the NICU, Your Baby's Medical Team, What to Expect in the NICU, Caring for Your Baby in the NICU, Seeing Your Baby, and Tips for Parents. The site offers practical tips such as what may be brought into the NICU (i.e. toys or pictures) and includes other tips for parents, especially those with other children. It is very "parent-friendly" and provides links to other resources.

MUMS: National Parent-to-Parent Network

www.netnet.net/mums/index.htm

This website features a parent-to-parent matching service to connect parents to parent support groups. The parent-to-parent network allows parents to provide each other emotional support and information regarding their child's care.

National Center for Cultural Competence

<http://gucchd.georgetown.edu/nccc>

The mission of the National Center for Cultural Competence (NCCC) is to increase the capacity of health and mental health programs to design, implement, and evaluate culturally and linguistically competent service delivery systems. The website contains information on assessing and promoting culturally competent health care practices. The site has a Spanish language portal specifically for families.

The National Parenting Center's Newsletter ParentTalk

www.tnpc.com

This website was created to describe responsible parenting advice. The site features a monthly newsletter called ParentTalk, which features columns written by TNPC's child-rearing expert panelists. The newsletter is filled with advice and information about medical, behavioral, and educational issues. The site also includes products that receive a Seal of Approval for safety and information about safety recalls issued on certain products. In addition, the site features a discussion board where parents can post questions or concerns for discussion with other parents.

Parents of Premies

www.pediatrics.wisc.edu/patientcare/preemies

This website was created by the University of Wisconsin for parents of children in the NICU. It offers information in English and Spanish. The site covers all aspects of caring for premature infants including: information on survival and morbidity of the premature infant, descriptions of the NICU including the people and equipment that will be involved in the care of the infant, problems and treatments, medications, parental involvement in the care of the infant, discharge planning, support networks, and outcomes. It is an excellent site offering a wealth of information in a well-organized and easily understood format.

Parents of Premature Babies, Inc. **www.preemie-l.org**

This non-profit organization offers support to families and caregivers of premature infants. It offers a discussion forum and list serve. In addition to NICU and medical information, resources for coping and emotional support are listed. Neonatologists, nurses, and other pediatric specialists contribute to these discussions. Essays, frequently asked questions, advice sheets for families and caregivers, booklists, and conferences are provided. This site stresses the organization's vision of developmentally-supportive, family-centered care in the NICU, institutional participation of outcomes research to provide families with educated decision-making, and continuous research into the causes and consequences of prematurity. One unique feature is a mentoring program for new parents of premature infants who are matched with parents of a now older premature infant. The website does contain some links to sites that may be useful.

Premature Babies Guide at Keep Kids Healthy **www.keepkidshealthy.com/newborn/premature_babies.html**

This is a general resource for parents. It defines the risk factors for having a premature baby, describes neonates at various gestational ages, and defines common medical problems that premature babies often face. The website also answers common parent questions related to feeding, going home, and possible long-term problems. There are links to other websites for support and parent chats.

Premature Babies: Caring for Your Baby **<http://familydoctor.org/handouts/283.html>**

This is a website maintained by the American Academy of Family Physicians as an all-encompassing resource to address typical parent concerns. Discussions include the special care needed by premature babies, growth and development, feeding issues, sleep patterns, vision and hearing, immunizations, and travel concerns such as car seat placement. This is an excellent site for parents and for early intervention providers. Technical information is not available for intervention suggestions or research.

Preemies.Org: Premie Support Site **<http://preemies.org>**

This site provides a support network through chat rooms and email lists. There is a link to an extensive, parent-friendly resource list. There are also multilingual sites on the resource list. Several stories of premature infants are shared on the site, and other links for parents of premature infants are available. This site is good for parents to share with one another, but is limited on actual information content and usefulness.

Premature Baby-Premature Child **<http://prematurity.org>**

This web site was developed by parents of children born prematurely who went on to have developmental issues. It is a useful resource for parents of premature infants and the providers who work with these families. The site is broken down into sections for email support, a premie forum, development/special needs, parenting, advocacy, books, author interviews, research, surviving the NICU, premature delivery and artwork/stories. The site provides parents with information on the use of comforting touch and massage, helping parents survive the emotional "roller coaster ride," developmental support care, kangaroo care, participation in physical care, and bathing and general information links they need to care for their infant. It includes information in a chronological format on support networks for parents, raising your child with special needs, information on parenting and advocating for their child, articles on the NICU experience, and shared experiences of other families. It also offers references on a variety of topics pertaining to the premature infant. Many resources are provided on the topics, as are discussion forums and mailing lists. The site also provides information on the developmental outcomes of premature infants. Unique to this site is the information provided on children with special needs and the opportunities for advocacy.

Special Child **www.specialchild.com**

Sponsored by the Resource Foundation for Children with Challenges (RFCC), this site provides parent testimonials, diagnosis-related information, parent support, and a wide variety of information regarding educational and early intervention services.

Interactions with Families

Tools for Coping with Life's Stressors www.coping.org

This website contains many links to help parents in coping with issues related to raising a child with special health care needs such as Tools for Communication and Tools for a Balanced Lifestyle. Information is also provided about early identification and intervention.

T-Bone's Survival Tips for New Premie Parents <http://members.aol.com/Kbone91/tbone.html>

This web site was set up by parents of babies born premature for parents and family members. It contains information regarding first visits to the NICU, how to touch a preemie, issues regarding leaving the hospital, NICU events, questions to ask, breastfeeding, emotions and dealing with having a preemie, and inspirations.

Tommy's CyberNursery Premie Web www.kingproductions.com

This web page was developed by a father whose son was born at 25 weeks gestation and spent 4 months in a NICU. The site chronicles the family's experience in the NICU (with pictures), talks about fears, concerns and continuing developmental issues. One of the best parts of the site is Daddy's Library, which provides links to other web sources.

Individualized Family Service Plan

Do2Learn

www.do2learn.com/areasofconcern/advocacy.htm

This page discusses the legal rights of children with special health care needs and their parents in regard to creating the IFSP. Parent-friendly links are also provided to sites that provide information about amendments to IDEA and other legal concerns.

Developing, Implementing, and Monitoring the IFSP/IEP

www.circleofinclusion.org/english/pim/seven

This site presents information about the creation, implementation, and monitoring of an IFSP or an IEP. The site includes information about observation and assessment, development of a functional IFSP or IEP, and implementation of goals and objectives. The site also discusses monitoring child progress. Additional resources are also provided.

Early Childhood Connections

www.rycf.org/ifsp.htm

This site presents information about the IFSP and the process of creating one. Links to information about Part C of IDEA, transition from Part C to Part B services, and service coordination are also provided. In addition, a link discussing child and parent rights is also found on this site.

Family Strengths in Childhood Disability

www.familystrengths.ca/ifsp.html

This site was created by the University of Manitoba. It discusses an area of research at the university. A brief overview of research on foundations for IFSPs is presented.

Guidelines for the IFSP under Part C of IDEA

www.idanatl.org/aboutld/professionals/guidelines.asp

This site was created by the Learning Disabilities Association of America. It details information about IDEA Part C and eligibility determination. Information regarding required contents of an IFSP is also discussed. The site also discusses the role of the service coordinator and transition from Part C to Part B services.

How Do Families Plan for the IFSP?

www.dpw.state.pa.us/Child/EarlyIntervention/003670020.htm

This site was created by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare to assist parents in preparation for an IFSP meeting. The site gives tips for parents to prepare for an IFSP. It also discusses what the IFSP should include and gives a brief description of general characteristics of the IFSP.

Individualized Family Service Plans

www.head-start.lane.or.us/education/special-needs/IFSPs.html

This site presents easy to understand information about the process of creating an IFSP. Topics discussed include legal timelines in Early Childhood Special Education, parental rights, participants for the IFSP meeting, and transportation. The continuum of services from least restrictive to most restrictive and who makes the placement decision are also discussed. In addition, the site contains a section about separated or divorced parents and the IFSP meeting.

Individualized Family Service Plans

<http://ericec.org/digests/e605.html>

This site is maintained by the Council for Exceptional Children. It describes basic information and policies regarding IFSPs. Topics addressed included how the IFSP differs from the IEP and steps that lead to effective IFSPs.

Individualized Family Service Plan

Individualized Family Service Plans

www.elc-pa.org/ei%20under%203.IFSP.11-02.pdf

This document was prepared by the Education Law Center in Pennsylvania. The site is in a format of frequently asked questions and answers. Topics include what an IFSP is, how it is developed, format of the IFSP meeting, what an IFSP includes, and how often an IFSP is reviewed. The site also addresses children's and parents' rights if they do not agree with the IFSP.

Starting Out Together

www.nbrc.net/plan.html

This is another site that describes the process of creating an IFSP. The site presents information about who should fill out the IFSP and what it should include. The site also discusses the process for changing the IFSP. This site is written for parents to help them better understand the process.

Program Implementation

The American Academy for Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine

www.aacpdm.org/index

This site was created by the AACPDM. The site is intended for professionals, parents, and patients. Information is given about current studies and AACPDM meetings and conferences. There are also links for scholarships to attend meetings and conferences. The site provides a library and resources as well.

Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI)

www.acei.org

This site provides a variety of information. It includes articles about topics relevant to childhood education as well as a section for parent resources. Resource materials such as books and other websites are also available.

AT Network

www.atnet.org

This site was developed as part of the California Foundation for Independent Living Center. It contains a variety of materials promoting the use of assistive technology by young children. There are links to other resources, explanations of laws, rules, regulations promoting the use of AT.

Brazelton Touchpoint Model

www.brazelton.org/touch.html

This site is maintained by the Brazelton Foundation. It presents information about the Touchpoints model of care.

The Center for Best Practices in Early Childhood Education

www.wiu.edu/users/mimacp/wiu

This web site was created by the Center for Best Practices. It contains a variety of materials (text, on-line, video, etc) on issues related to the use of technology with young children.

Center for Child and Family Health Promotion Research

www.nursing.umn.edu/ccfhpr

The goal of this Center is to improve the health of infants, children, adolescents, parents and families in the context of their communities. The focus of the Center is on enhancing the

health of underserved groups in urban and rural areas. The site includes information about current research and educational projects as well as a few resources.

Child Development Resources

www.cdr.org

This website is maintained by a program that provides early intervention services to children with special needs, training to early childhood providers at the local, state, regional, and national levels, and technical assistance. The site contains information about the various programs available and the different types of training they offer. This site is appropriate for parents looking for a program for their child as well as for professionals seeking further training.

Child Development Website

www.childstudy.net/index.html

The site presents a month-by-month overview of child development from birth to age three and one-half.

Children's Memorial Hospital of Chicago

www.childrensmemorial.org

This is the official website for the neonatology department at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago. It contains information about treatments such as ECMO and nitric oxide. There are links for parents and healthcare professionals on various topics including drug formulary, electronic resources, and advocacy.

Circle of Inclusion

www.circleofinclusion.org

The Circle of Inclusion Web Site is for early childhood service providers and families of young children. This web site offers demonstrations of and information about the effective practices of inclusive educational programs for children from birth through age eight.

Program Implementation

Coaching in Natural Environments (coming soon) www.coachinginearlychildhood.org

The purposes of the Coaching in Natural Environments website are to: share information and resources about where, how, and why to provide services for infants, toddlers, and their families who are eligible for services under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) in natural settings and provide follow-up web-based training and support for state and early intervention program leaders who are participating in the Personal Development and Ongoing Continuous Improvement Model for Service Delivery in Natural Environments.

The Consortium for Children and Youth with Disabilities and Special Health Care Needs http://gucchd.georgetown.edu/programs/consortium_for_children

This site contains a variety of materials focusing on access to care for children and youth with disabilities. Materials include bibliographies on assistive technology and telehealth, research briefs, family information, etc. It has links to several programs and projects on issues such as transition, financing care, etc.

Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services www.clas.uiuc.edu

This web site presents descriptions and reviews of current early childhood materials, selected for their potential usefulness with culturally and linguistically diverse children and families. The reviews present strengths, limitations, and potential adaptations of the materials, as well as recommendations for the most appropriate audiences. Many of the reviewed materials were developed for use with children at risk for developmental delays.

Division for Early Childhood www.dec-sped.org

This nonprofit organization advocates for individuals who work with or on behalf of children with special needs and their families. It was founded in 1973 and is dedicated to promoting policies and practices that support families and enhance the optimal development of children. Children with special needs include those who have disabilities, developmental delays, are gifted/talented, or are at risk of future developmental problems. The website includes links to publications and journals, position statements, conferences, projects, training opportunities.

EarlyChildhood.Com www.earlychildhood.com

This site provides information for individuals interested in improving the education and general life of infants, toddlers, and young children.

Early Childhood Instruction in the Natural Environment <http://ericec.org/digests/e591.html>

This site discusses the basis for instructing children in natural environments. It includes information about natural environments as they relate to IDEA. Ideas for delivering effective instruction in the natural environment are also provided.

Early Childhood Research Institute on Measuring Growth and Development <http://ici2.umn.edu/ecri>

This website describes a project designed to produce a comprehensive system for continuously measuring the skills and needs of individual children with disabilities from birth to eight years of age. The site includes detailed information about the purpose, investigators, dissemination, and contact information for the project.

Early Childhood Resource Center—RT International www.rti.org/page.cfm?objectid=D7443E9A-2418-4BB8-AFE49767D35B1836

This site is from the Early Childhood Resource Center at RTI International. This company provides research and technical assistance to early childhood programs in its efforts to promote optimal development. The site includes links to resources for parent education and support, individual assessments, community needs assessments, and research to practice.

Early Intervention Research Institute www.eiri.usu.edu

The target audience of this site includes professionals involved in early intervention. It can also be beneficial for families of children requiring early intervention services within the state of Utah. This site is sponsored by an interdisciplinary organization that addresses the policies and procedures of early intervention for at-risk and special needs children and their families. The site presents information on research, training, and technical support that is offered by the Early Intervention Research Institute. Research topics include service coordination, support systems, family quality-of-life, literacy, program costs, infant massage, eligibility and enrollment, mental

health, and follow-up after NICU discharge. Specific programs also target rural communities and families of preterm infants. This site offers evidence-based practices for professionals involved in early intervention, and can also be helpful for families within the state of Utah.

FACETS: Family-guided Approaches to Collaborative Early-intervention Training and Services

www.parsons.lsi.ku.edu/facets

This website provides a description of a program that is funded by the U.S. Department of Education between the University of Kansas and The Florida State University. The program provides training for family-guided activity based interventions. The site includes detailed information about the project and a link to the related program implemented at The Florida State University called TaCTICS.

Family Guide to Assistive Technology

www.pluk.org

A very helpful and informative guide on AT. Although written for families professionals will gain a great deal of important information in the area of assistive technology and early intervention.

Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute

www.fpg.unc.edu

This site is from the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. It features research projects conducted at the institute as well as current news related to child development issues. The site has sections for professionals, parents, and the media.

Gaining and Growing

<http://depts.washington.edu/growing>

This site is dedicated to community health professionals who work with premature infants and was funded by a grant from the Maternal Child Health Bureau. The site includes specific feeding suggestions, case studies, and decision trees for clinical services. There is a very enlightening component that includes parents' views of what professionals did that was helpful and what was not. This site is very informative in regard to feeding concerns and some general issues of the very low birth weight infant.

Implementation Guide to Natural Environments

www.earlyonmichigan.org/pdf/ImplementationGuide.pdf

This site is a 23-page document from the Early On program in Michigan that discusses many topics related to natural environments. The site presents information regarding the implementation of services in natural environments according to IDEA as well as elements of successful early intervention in natural environments. The site also provides information about the benefits of providing early intervention services in natural learning environments.

International Society on Early Intervention

<http://depts.washington.edu/isei>

The primary purpose of the ISEI website is to provide a framework and forum for professionals from around the world to communicate about advances in the field of early intervention. The membership of ISEI is composed of basic and clinical researchers relevant to the field of early intervention representing a diverse array of biomedical and behavioral disciplines, as well as clinicians and policy-makers in leadership positions. The site includes links to the ISEI coordinating committee, membership directory, publications information, and other related resources.

JFK Partners

www.JFKPartners.org

This is the website from a multifaceted, interdepartmental training, service, and research program at the University of Colorado. The web site contains program descriptions, lectures, training materials and links.

Kangaroo Care

www.umanitoba.ca/womens_health/kangaroo.htm

This is a general informational article written for parents about kangaroo care from the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences in the University of Manitoba Women's Center. This article gives background information and general procedures for this treatment technique.

Program Implementation

Kangarooing Our Little Miracles www.geocities.com/roopage

This is a website developed by a mother of a child born prematurely to provide information about kangaroo care for infants in the NICU. It offers an explanation about what it is and how to perform it, studies that support it, and how it is thought to benefit the infant and family members involved in the care. The website contains links to several other websites that offer information on kangaroo care and other aspects of preemie care, a section where you can email an advice nurse with questions regarding this type of care, and another email address to order a video on the subject as well. The site links to another site on developmentally supportive care. There is also a long list of resources.

Mead Johnson & Company: Feeding Issues and Patient Education www.meadjohnson.com/professional/patiented.html

This site is from Mead Johnson & Company. It includes many patient information handouts on a variety of topics, including issues related to feeding, breastfeeding, pregnancy, and development.

Metro Health Systems www.metrohealth.org/clinical/NICU

This site is divided into several Zones such as a Parents Zone and a Physicians Zone. The Parents Zone includes how to care for the neonate at home, growth and development milestones (including how to find corrected age), home technology, and screenings that may occur for the child. The Safety Section of the Parents Zone discusses general safety features for all parents to follow. The Physician Zone includes clinical pathways as well as a NICU reference guide. The NICU reference guide includes guidelines for discharge, as well as basic outlines to help decision processes. The Physician Zone can be helpful to any health professional working in the NICU.

Music Therapy in Childbirth and Neonatal Care www.mtabc.com/childbirth.html

This website targets anyone involved in neonatal care, from parents to medical staff. The site describes the benefits of music therapy for a variety of issues including, relaxation during childbirth to decrease fetal stress, the use of music for the infant for pacification or stimulation, distraction stimulus to divert attention from pain, and effective infant calming.

National Association for the Education of Young Children www.naeyc.org

This is the nation's largest organization of early childhood professionals and others dedicated to improving the quality of early childhood education programs for children birth through age eight. The site includes links to news topics, publications, and association conferences. The site contains information appropriate for association members, teachers and administrators, families, higher education faculty, students, and affiliate groups.

National Center for Early Development and Learning (NCEDL) www.ncedl.org

This website was created by the NCEDL. The NCEDL focuses on enhancing the cognitive, social and emotional development of children from birth through age eight. The website includes information about news issues, research, and products. A link to learn more about the people behind the projects of the NCEDL is also provided.

National Early Intervention Longitudinal Study www.sri.com/neils

NEILS is a longitudinal study that is following more than 3,338 children with disabilities or at risk for disabilities and their families through their experiences in early intervention and into early elementary school. The site provides information on the study including the characteristics of children and families, the services they receive, and the outcomes they experience.

The National Head Start Disabilities Services Training Center www.edc.org/CCF/ntc

The National Head Start Disabilities Services Training Center has developed a series of five training guides to strengthen the capacity of early childhood programs to reach and serve children with disabilities and their families. These guides cover a range of topics related to disabilities services, from supporting children with challenging behaviors, to translating the IEP into everyday classroom practice. This website provides downloadable versions of the guides.

National Network for Child Care

www.nncc.org

This site provides information from the NNCC, an organization that unites the expertise of universities and colleges through the Cooperative Extension Program. The site contains articles, activities, guidelines, and discussion forums on issues related to best practices in child care.

Neonatal Network

<http://neonatalnetwork.com>

This site is designed primarily for nurses working in a neonatal care unit. It provides a link to Neonatal Network and information on neonatal nursing conferences. Unless the viewer is a member of the network, the site is relatively closed. The site provides quality articles in the area of clinical practice, education, research, and administration by acting as a vehicle for the exchange of information.

Neonatal Talk

www.infantgrapevine.co.uk/discussion-home.html

All healthcare professionals are welcome, but this discussion list is primarily aimed at neonatal nurses worldwide to exchange views and information with fellow neonatal nurses. The discussions are devoted to neonatal intensive care issues, including clinical practice protocols, new products, professional issues and posting of surveys. Subscribers are able to send and receive messages from other list members.

Neonatology on the Web

www.neonatology.org

This site was developed by a physician from Cedars-Sinai Medical Center as a reference tool for all NICU professionals. It contains research articles, links to other web-based databases, job listings and career information in neonatology, a clinical resource section, and a section on miscellaneous aspects of neonatology and the NICU. The clinical resource area has descriptions and information on NICU equipment, types and effects of medications, procedures/exams, and an extensive education section that has definitions from A-Z on terms/conditions etc. encountered in the NICU. The Diversions and Classics section contains a written and pictorial history of neonatology including great photos of preemies and early NICU equipment. This site is not related to any organization and is kept up to date by a neonatologist on a sporadic schedule.

NICU-Web

<http://neonatal.peds.washington.edu>

This website was developed by the University of Washington Medical Center as a web-based resource tool for professionals on many aspects of neonatal care. There are several sections of resources, the first being common diagnoses found in premature infants. It offers definitions and causes of the diagnoses as well as medical treatment of them. Another section offers information on procedures/intervention commonly followed in the NICU. There is a list of different references for patient care including several guidelines for procedures utilized in the NICU. There are also lists of pediatric, neonatal, and web references. It is a clinical site that offers medical definitions that would be familiar to professionals and could be utilized as a quick reference tool in practice.

NICHD Cochrane Home Page

www.nichd.nih.gov/cochrane

The Cochrane Collaboration is a nonprofit, international organization that reviews studies to document the evidence of intervention. This site is part of the Cochrane Library collection. The home page provides an alphabetical listing of current reviews of studies related to neonatal care. Each review includes background information related to the medical issue, method of study selection, characteristics of included studies, and a summary review of the articles and conclusions toward best medical practice. Additionally the reviewers will suggest a direction for further research.

NICU-NET

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nicu-net>

This is a closed and moderated forum for discussion of neonatal intensive care issues. NICUNET membership is international in scope and moderated by a rotating group of neonatal health care professionals. There are over 1200 members, which include physicians, nurses, and other caregivers. Recent discussion topics included procedural issues of patient care, recently published clinical trials or recommendations, effects of health care reform of neonatology, continuous quality improvement, and the role of computers in neonatal practices.

Program Implementation

Orlena Hawks Puckett Institute **www.puckett.org**

The Orlena Hawks Puckett Institute is a not-for-profit organization engaging in activities that promote healthy child, parent, and family functioning. The site links to a variety of the Institutes projects including the Research and Training Center in Early Childhood Development, Center for Evidence Based Practice, Coaching in the Natural Environment. The site has a great deal of valuable information especially in the area of natural environments and evidence-based practice.

Pediatrix Neonatal Medicine **www.pediatrix.com/body.cfm?id=212**

This site is a resource for parents to learn more about the NICU and the personnel and equipment they will encounter while in the NICU. This site contains information on neonatal intensive care, neonatal staff, equipment, tests, conditions and diseases, procedures and surgery, and medications.

Pediatric Services **www.pediatricervices.com**

This website targets parents and families and pediatric-care professionals. It provides information about organizations, case reports, recommended readings, questions and answers, information regarding typical development and resources. There is also a special section on autism.

Power of the Ordinary **www.poweroftheordinary.org**

The site includes a vast array of activities and strategies to promote learning in everyday activities and routines.

Prevention and Management of Pain and Stress in the Neonate **www.aap.org/policy/re9945.html**

This webpage is a link from the American Academy of Pediatrics site. It addresses the management of pain and stress in the neonate and is targeted to healthcare providers. The website contains useful information for providers of infants in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) and graduates of the NICU. Information includes the long-term effects of neonatal pain, methods of detecting neonatal pain, and prevention techniques for minimizing neonatal pain/stress.

Providing Early Intervention Services in Natural Environments: Concerns and Tips **www.aahbei.org/files**

This is the web site for The American Association for Home-Based Early Interventionists (pronounced AH-BE). AAHBEI serves families and those working in the field of early intervention with infants, toddlers, and preschoolers with special needs. This site contains information about the importance of providing services in natural environments. It defines natural environments and discusses the use of a transdisciplinary model to deliver care. It also presents a variety of handouts, links, and other resources on a variety of conditions and diagnosis.

System of Early Intervention Natural Environments **www.nde.state.ne.us/edn/Volume1.pdf**

Information about natural environments in reference to IDEA, reasons why working with children in natural environments is important, and details about what constitutes a natural environment are discussed.

TaCTICS: Therapists as Collaborative Team Members for Infant/Toddler Community Services **<http://tactics.fsu.edu>**

TaCTICS (Therapists as Collaborative Team members for Infant/Toddler Community Services) is an outreach training project at The Florida State University. The project shares tools useful in skillfully navigating the path toward provision of Part C Services using the child/family's daily routines, activities, and events as a context for assessment and intervention. There are several components of the site including links to training modules and FACETS (Family-guided Approaches to Collaborative Early-intervention Training and Services). The site also includes information on natural environments and Family Guided Routines Based Intervention.

University of Minnesota Department of Pediatric Neonatology **www.ahc.umn.edu/ahc_content/colleges/med_school/departments/pediatrics/pediatrics_divisions/pediatrics_neonatology/index.cfm**

This site posts lectures and presentations by university professors about various neonatal topics. The NICU Follow-up Clinic Section includes family education materials such as child development resources, age-appropriate toys, and various developmental milestones with suggested activities up to 30 months of age.

Evaluation & Assessment

New Assessment: Early Childhood Resources

www.newassessment.org

The mission of the New Assessment: Early Childhood Resources web site is to advance the field of early childhood and intervention in the area of assessment by promoting recommended practices including innovative assessment models, processes and resources that benefit young children and their families. The website has six different Info Channels designed specifically for Parents and Families; Teachers, Childcare Personnel and Interventionists; Diagnosticians and Psychologists; Therapists and Medical Professionals; Educational Institutions and Researchers; and Administrators and Policy Makers. The site also features an interview from a "Visiting Expert" in the field.

Education World: Assessment & Early Intervention

www.education-world.com/early_childhood/assessment/index.shtml

This site presents helpful links related to issues of developmental assessment of young children. The site is intended to be used primarily by educators of young children age 3 and up. The site also contains helpful articles with information about filling out the Individualized Education Plan (IEP). The site also provides many links to other resources and information regarding issues of assessment.

NECTAC: Screening, Evaluation and Assessment

www.nectac.org/topics/earlyid/screeneval.asp

This site provides many links to information about different types of screening and evaluation tools used in early childhood care. It also includes links to sources with recommendations for assessment of children.

Evaluation and Assessment

www.rycf.org/evaluation_and_assessment.htm

This site contains family-friendly information that describes and defines evaluation and assessment in relation to early intervention services.

Early Childhood Assessment: Birth to Three Years

www.ldanatl.org/aboutld/parents/early_childhood/assessment.asp

This website is a fact sheet intended for parents. It gives information about what a developmental assessment includes and some guidelines for the assessment of a child from birth to three years of age. It also includes suggested steps for an effective assessment of a child.

Evaluation and Assessment in Early Childhood Education

<http://128.174.128.220/cgi-bin/classSearch/viewitem.cgi?id=2>

This site provides a link to an article that describes many issues related to the assessment of children who are culturally and linguistically diverse such as guidelines for screening for language proficiency and language dominance and working with translators or interpreters. The article gives information about the drawbacks of using standardized testing when English proficiency is limited.

A Developmental Approach to Assessment of Young Children

<http://www.kidsource.com/kidsource/content4/assess.development.html>

This site contains information about how to approach the assessment of a young child. It discusses the purpose of assessment and the risks it may pose. Strategies for the professional to consider before beginning the assessment are also provided.

Legal Mandates, Regulations, and Administration

Administration for Children and Families www.acf.dhhs.gov

This site is from the federal agency that provides assistance to the various entities that provide family assistance, child support, child care, Head Start, child welfare, and other programs relating to helping families and children. The site includes information about the services provided by ACF, working with ACF, and policies and planning related to ACF.

Center for the Child Care Workforce www.ccw.org

This website is maintained by a division of the American Federation of Teachers Educational Foundation that was set up to support the education of children, advocacy of early child care and education, and compensation of professionals that work with children. The site provides information regarding their federal and state policies and initiatives. The site also includes many resources available for teachers about educating children and a newsletter to help professionals keep current on the issues of interest.

Child Development Web www.childdevelopmentweb.com/Information/Elprograms.asp

This site offers information on early intervention for parents and families of children who might be eligible for services. The 'early intervention programs' section is part of the 'information link' on The Child Development Web's home page. The site contains information on obtaining services in the U.S., an explanation of early intervention programs and processes, and a break down of the services that are available through early intervention. Contact information for early intervention in each state is accessible and there are excellent explanations of the different areas of development, services available, and the entire process of utilizing early intervention.

Child and Family Connections <http://cfc-lic.org/interventionlinks.html>

This site is regulated by the state of Illinois. The information is for multiple audiences, though the information is technical and possibly confusing to parents. Providers can access information to review the laws and regulations and policy and procedures for early intervention programs. This site provides PDF links to download the procedures and insurance guidelines for clinics and therapists to remain up to date with state policies.

Children's Rights Council www.gocrc.com

The Children's Rights Council (CRC) is a national, non-profit organization based in Washington, DC that works to ensure that children may have meaningful and continuing contact with both of their parents and extended family, regardless of the parents' marital status. This webpage has many links including research, the Speak Out for Children Newsletter, and legislative information. There is also a section called Info4Parents, which contains resources, information, and referrals for single and never-married parents.

Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) www.ideapractices.org

CEC is an international professional organization dedicated to improving educational outcomes for individuals with exceptionalities, students with disabilities, and/or the gifted. Included on the website are current governmental policies and professional standards. The targeted audience for this website includes teachers, parents, administrators, students, paraprofessionals and related support service providers.

Early Child Development www.worldbank.org/children

This site is a knowledge source designed to assist policy makers, program managers and practitioners in their efforts to promote the healthy growth and integral development of

young children. This site is in Spanish, Portuguese, French, and Arabic.

Early Childhood Education Online

www.umaine.edu/eceol

The Early Childhood Education On Line website at the University of Maine exists to promote and facilitate information management and exchange, and to serve as a resource and benefit for all children, their families, and all people who help them grow and learn. The site includes links for developmental guidelines, advocacy, observation and assessment, diversity, and curriculum and environments.

Federal Resource Center for Special Education

www.federalresourcecenter.org/frc

The FRC supports a nationwide technical assistance network to respond to the needs of students with disabilities, especially those from underrepresented populations. This site provides information and links from a variety of federally funded projects.

The Future of Children

www.futureofchildren.org

An online journal from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation that focuses on pediatric health care, education, and social service policy. Each edition is on a single topic and is explored from a multidisciplinary perspective. Many of the topics are helpful when addressing health and wellness and preventative medicine for children.

Illinois Department of Human Services

www.dhs.state.il.us/ei

This is the official website for the Illinois Early Intervention (EI) program. There are pages for parents, agencies, or providers. The provider section outlines up-to-date EI news, practice regulations, system changes, and training opportunities. The site provides a library of information services to parents, providers, educators, policymakers, students, and others interested in early intervention issues. The resource library contains books, periodicals, audiovisual, and other reference materials that can be issued for use on loan. Although the information is for multiple audiences, the site also offers an "Early Intervention" quarterly newsletter directed specifically toward parents. The parent section may also be helpful for parents seeking EI credentialed therapists in their area.

Illinois Head Start Association: Illinois Early Childhood Program Matrix

www.ilheadstart.org/birth25.html

The site provides information on how to become an EI provider in IL. The site also provides information on 1 month to 2 year gross motor milestones and early intervention services. It also includes links to 89 sites for additional information of specific topics.

Illinois Public Health Association: Early Childhood Intervention Clearinghouse

www.ipha.com/clearing.htm

This site provides a breakdown of information regarding the Illinois Early Childhood Program Matrix. The Matrix is broken down into five areas: program design, family involvement, community involvement, human resources, and quality assurance. The site compares the eight public agencies on a variety of topics including: services, funding, payment, eligibility, child qualification, staff sizes, attendance requirements, child screening, services to children with disabilities, curriculum, family participation, family education, referral need, program outcomes and child outcomes. This site is open to the public, however, health care professionals will benefit greatest.

Indiana First Steps Early Intervention

www.eikids.com

The target audience includes therapists, parents, service coordinators, and other service providers for children birth to age three. Information pertaining to therapists mainly encompasses administrative issues, enrollment, reimbursement, and training. Therapists can also access the equipment exchange page if they have equipment needs or have equipment available to exchange. This website is fairly informational regarding the purpose of early intervention and how it is to be administered in Indiana. Parents can access information when choosing a provider for their child and can find links to other early childhood links.

Information and Referral Resource Network

www.ir-net.com

This site contains a national directory of internet listings for medical services. The site is intended to be used by medical professionals, educators, students, or the general public. The directory includes referral information for social services, health care, drugs, doctors, hospitals, and medical services. The site also provides information on some community health and outreach programs.

Legal Mandates, Regulations & Administration

KY Cabinet for Health Services First Steps

www.chs.ky.gov/publichealth/firststeps/%202004

This web site targets parents and families, healthcare professionals, and early intervention providers. It offers information regarding what the Kentucky state early intervention program offers for children with developmental delays and how the process works for qualification, who to call, and how to get started. It also offers providers information regarding the laws, policies and procedures, and regulations in the state of Kentucky. It has a list of providers throughout the state and lists meetings, offers information regarding child development, special projects, newsletters, and links to other sites for special needs and disabilities.

National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center

www.nectac.org

This program provides responsive technical assistance (TA) to the programs supported under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for infants and toddlers with disabilities (Part C of IDEA) and for preschoolers with disabilities (Section 619-Part B of IDEA) in all states and participating jurisdictions and to the projects funded by OSEP under the Early Education Program for Children with Disabilities (EEPCD). Informational links to IDEA, publications, and other resources are available.

National Child Care Information Center

www.nccic.org

This site is maintained by the NCCIC. The NCCIC is an organization that is dedicated to linking families, providers, policy-makers, researchers, and the public to information about early child care and education information. The site contains many links to information about legislation and policies affecting early childhood care including the Administration for Children and Families Priorities, nutrition/obesity prevention, and the Bush administration's Early Childhood Initiative. The site also features links to resources for parents.

Office of Special Education Programs

www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osep/osep/index.html

This website is from the division of the Department of Education that oversees IDEA. Information regarding IDEA and other special education initiatives can be found on this website.

PACER Center: Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights

www.pacer.org/text/index.htm

This website is from the PACER organization, which is committed to enhancing the quality of life and expanding opportunities of children and young adults with disabilities and their families. The website provides resources on early childhood, legislation, transition issues, and many others.

Parents Helping Parents (PHP)

www.php.com

This site is sponsored by a California based, not-for-profit organization for parents of children with disabilities. PHP is an international consulting organization for family resources. The site provides valuable information for parents regarding laws related to the rights of children with disability and health care issues. They provide regional and state specific information about support groups for parents and siblings as well as information on topics such as special education, IDEA, No Child Left Behind, and other special education initiatives. In this manner, PHP provides information regarding early intervention and assists parents whose children do not come through the NICU experience without problems.

A Parent's Guide: Accessing Programs for Infants, Toddlers, and Preschoolers With Disabilities

www.nichcy.org/pubs/parent/pa2txt.htm

This guide from the National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities is intended to assist families in obtaining help for their young children with special needs (ages birth through 5 years). It answers commonly asked questions about early intervention services for infants and toddlers (birth to 2 years), and related services for children ages 3 through 5 years old. This guide identifies what the early intervention policies and contacts are in your state and area. There is also a Spanish language version.

Special Education Law and Advocacy: Wrights Law

www.wrightslaw.com

The purpose of this website is to provide up to date information about special education law and advocacy for children with disabilities. It contains articles, cases, newsletters, and resources about a variety of topics related to special education law and advocacy including eligibility, IDEA, and No Child Left Behind. The site also lists information about seminars and training that is available.