



WEEKLY UPDATE – JUNE 17, 2010

IN THIS MEMO:

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

1. GOVERNOR CRIST AT FAMILY CAFÉ ON FRIDAY
2. EARLY STEPS ELIGIBILITY CHANGES
3. SERVICE COORDINATION WORKGROUP
4. GOVERNOR'S CHILDREN AND YOUTH CABINET
5. BABY TREADMILL NEWS
6. NECTAC NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS/TRAININGS

7. ASHA ONLINE CONFERENCE

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

GOVERNOR CRIST WILL BE ON HAND AT THE 12TH ANNUAL FAMILY CAFE

Come and hear Governor Crist speak on Friday, June 18, 2010 at 11:30 a.m. in the Coronado Ballroom at the Disney Coronado Springs.

Governor Crist will also be signing two pieces of legislation. The Restraint & Seclusion bill, SB 1070, requires teachers to be trained to identify and care for children with disabilities, and creates requirements for the use of restraint and seclusion on children with disabilities in our schools. The second, SB 1166, alters APD rules for community residential homes within planned residential communities.

EARLY STEPS ELIGIBILITY CHANGES (With 1 Attachment)

It has been realized that LESs need better tools to convey the message of who Early Steps is and what we do, especially the IDEA Part C intent that Early Steps supports the "needs of the family related to enhancing the child's development;" CFR 303.12. With the support of the Developmental Disabilities Council, Early Steps Sustainability Project team at the Ounce of Prevention of Fund, we will be developing materials to better inform families, referral sources and providers. Today we have attached a memo from the Early Steps State Office which outlines the changes being made to eligibility as of July 1, 2010 for distribution to your providers, referral sources, and community partners to make them aware of the upcoming changes.

Further tools will be forthcoming! Stay tuned for information about an upcoming training on the implementation of the new eligibility criteria.

SERVICE COORDINATION WORKGROUP (With 2 Attachments)

The notes from the last Service Coordination Workgroup conference call that was held on June 9, 2010 are attached. The draft of the "Transfer of Child Record Documents" form with the suggested changes is also attached for your review. The next Service Coordination Workgroup conference call will be held on July 14 from 12:00 - 2:00 EDT.

GOVERNOR'S CHILDREN AND YOUTH CABINET

Here is the final report on the headline indicators from the Governor's Children and Youth Cabinet for your information. <http://www.flgov.com/pdfs/ChildAdvocacy/headlineindicators.pdf>

KINESIOLOGISTS DESIGN TINY TREADMILL TO HELP BALANCE BABY STEPS IN DOWN SYNDROME INFANTS

An IDEA Part C state has asked if anyone has had requests to purchase these little treadmills as assistive technology devices? And, if so, did you approve? Please respond to ideaitca@aol.com if you have information to share.

January 1, 2009 — Kinesiologists developed a tiny treadmill to help infants with Down Syndrome learn to balance themselves earlier. Typically, these children learn how to walk at 24 to 28 months,

later than the 12 months for those without Down. The treadmill exercise, used about 8 minutes a day, helps to reinforce the underlying pattern of coordination in the legs. This repetition helps build core muscles and support the drive to stand up. After the babies take eight to 10 steps without help, they are outfitted with light reflecting markers. The information from these markers is recorded on cameras, revealing gait, speed and width of their steps. Researchers show walking is occurring six months sooner with the treadmill.

Down syndrome affects one in every 800 babies. It's a genetic condition that causes delays in intellectual and physical development. Researchers have now developed a treadmill for Down's babies to help them walk earlier than ever before.

Six-year-old Evan keeps his big brothers busy. Nothing can slow him down, and that's just the way his mom likes it. "He loves to run and play with his brothers," mother Jeanette Kurnik said.

Evan has Down syndrome, a genetic disorder caused when a fetus has 47 chromosomes instead of the usual 46. Typical kids learn to walk at 12 months. Babies with Down syndrome learn at 24 to 28 months.

Kinesiologist Dale Ulrich, Ph.D., of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Mich., studies human movement and led the team who developed a tiny treadmill specifically for children with Down syndrome.

"The idea is we want to support this underlying pattern of coordination in their legs, this alternating stepping," Dr. Ulrich said.

The treadmill training helps babies with Down learn to balance earlier. Signe Newcomb helps her daughter Lauren use the treadmill at home for eight minutes every day. "She likes to stand more and is building her core muscle strength," Newcomb said.

Once the babies take eight to ten steps by themselves, they are evaluated at the Gait Laboratory where information from light-reflecting markers attached to the child is recorded on cameras.

"Basically, we know how long their step is, how wide they walk and how fast they walk," Rosa Angulobarroso, a research scientist at the University of Michigan, said.

Studies show the babies learn to walk six months earlier than kids without treadmill training, and the quality of their walking is much better. It doesn't sound like much, but it can mean a world of difference.

"Once locomotion occurs, it really advances cognitive development, social skill development and language, so the sooner you get them walking, [the sooner] they can explore their environment," Dr. Ulrich said.

Babies can start their treadmill training as early as eight to 10 months of age.

NECTAC NEWS

For the current issue of NECTAC eNotes go to <http://www.nectac.org/enotes/enotes.asp>

UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS/TRAININGS



Communication in Children with Autism

An Online Conference for Speech-Language Pathologists

Offered again, by popular demand!

Dates: July 20 – August 3

Location: Wherever you are, with a computer and a Web connection

Your registration gives you access to:

- 20 recorded lectures available on demand (27 hours of content)
- 14 live, text-based chats with presenters
- Discussions with participants from all over the world

You can earn up to 4.1 ASHA CEUs (41 professional development hours)!

Find more information here: www.asha.org/events/autism-conf/.

[Register now!](#)