



## ESSO WEEKLY MEMO – AUGUST 26, 2010

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### **ACTION NEEDED**

**EARLY STEPS STATEWIDE MEETING  
RESERVATIONS  
DEADLINE EXTENDED TO SUNDAY**

HILTON/WALT DISNEY WORLD RESORT IN ORLANDO  
SEPTEMBER 29, 2010 – OCTOBER 1, 2010

## Hotel reservations must be made no later than **SUNDAY, August 29, 2010**

Please call **1-800-782-4414** to make hotel reservations and be sure to indicate that you will be attending the Early Steps Statewide Meeting.

The meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday and will end at 1:00 pm on Friday. The room rate is \$99.00 per night (single or double occupancy).

### **EARLY STEPS STATEWIDE MEETING REGISTRATION**

If you are planning to attend the Early Steps Statewide Meeting, **please register** to attend the meeting at the following link: <http://cpeip.fsu.edu/FORM.CFM>

### **OSEP TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE VISIT**

Hillary Tabor from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) is coming to provide face-to-face technical assistance on September 8 and 9. ESSO will be scheduling conference calls with her for each of the following groups, so please save the dates. If you have a question in mind already, we would appreciate you sending them to us so we can communicate potential questions and issues to Ms. Tabor. **Please send your questions/issues to [LynnMarie\\_Price@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:LynnMarie_Price@doh.state.fl.us) by NOON Sept 1.**

Service Coordination Workgroup Conference Call - Sept 8, 12:00-2:00

Directors/Coordinators - Sept 9, 8:30-9:30

Family Resource Specialists - Sept 9, 1:00-2:00

ESSO is excited about this opportunity and have a very busy schedule planned for Ms. Tabor. We are sorry we can't include everyone in our stakeholder community in the two days that she will be here. Call information will be sent to each of the groups closer to the visit dates.

## **INFORMATION AND RESOURCES**

### **EARLY STEPS MENTORSHIP UPDATE**

The purpose of the Early Steps mentorship process is to provide hands-on opportunities for prospective providers to gain experience working within a primary service provider approach. Some mentorship activities are conducted directly with children and families and therefore a clear Level II Background Screening is required of ALL individuals BEFORE they begin a mentorship.

## STATUS ON MEDICAID CODE #6122 ISSUE

Incorrect partial payments being described with a Medicaid #6122 Code have been occurring statewide. Medicaid staff report that they are aware, have identified what they expect will be a fix, and are working on it. Please be patient and stay tuned as they will notify us once their "fix" is implemented.

## TOYS "R" US TOY GUIDE FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED KIDS

<http://www.toysrus.com/shop/index.jsp?categoryId=3261680>

Toys"R"Us founder Charles Lazarus heard from customers and store employees about the challenges of finding appropriate toys for the special needs children in their lives. As a result, in 1994 Mr. Lazarus spearheaded the creation of the *Toys"R"Us Toy Guide for Differently-Abled Kids*. Since then, Toys"R"Us, Inc. has published the *Guide* every year, distributing it in stores and, since 2006, making it available online.

Anyone who knows and loves a child with special needs will find the *Guide* to be a valuable resource. Since its inception, thousands of parents, relatives, friends and professionals have relied on the *Guide* to help them determine which toys are suitable for a child's particular abilities.

The *Guide* also offers the National Lekotek Center's "Top Ten Tips for Buying Toys," which encourages relatives and caregivers to ask pertinent questions before purchasing a toy for differently-abled kids, such as, "Will the toy provide a challenge without frustration?" and "Can play be open-ended with no definite right or wrong way?"

Copies of the *Guide* are available at all Toys"R"Us® and Babies"R"Us® locations nationwide. If you represent a special needs organization or are a special needs educator or therapist, you may e-mail [DifferentlyAbled@toysrus.com](mailto:DifferentlyAbled@toysrus.com) to **receive copies in bulk free of charge for redistribution**. A "flippable" digital version, as well as a downloadable version in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#), can be found by [clicking here](#).

## NEW ONLINE RESOURCE FOR PARENTS AND PROFESSIONALS FROM LET THEM HEAR FOUNDATION

In response to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (IDEA), the Let Them Hear Foundation created and recently launched a new online resource for parents and professionals working with children with disabilities. The resource center provides information on the identification and referral of disabilities, determining eligibility for special education and services based on IDEA 2004, how to find service providers in your area, and various behavioral issues that may be encountered. Articles are tailored specifically for professionals, parents of children with cochlear implants, parents of children who are hard of hearing, parents of children who are deaf, and parents of children with one of the other 12 disability categories identified by IDEA 2004. All

resources are available in both English and Spanish. For more information or to access the resource, please visit <http://idea.letthemhear.org>.

## **ESSO TO BEGIN MONITORING IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW PART C ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

ESSO will begin monitoring implementation of the new Part C eligibility criteria on September 1, 2010. The purpose of the monitoring is to ensure that the new eligibility criteria are being applied consistently throughout the state and that the decision to make children eligible is appropriately documented.

To conduct this monitoring we will be providing each LES with a worksheet to capture summary eligibility data each month beginning September 1, 2010. We will use the data obtained from the monthly monitoring to determine the fidelity of the process used by the LESs, to identify best practices and technical assistance needs.

The worksheet will be emailed to Directors and Coordinators this week and will be discussed on the Directors/Coordinators conference call on September 1st.

## **NECTAC NEWS**

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