



WEEKLY UPDATE – SEPTEMBER 12, 2008

ACTION NEEDED

Training Coordinator Orientation Conference Call

Training Coordinators, please mark your calendars. The planned orientation of LES Training Coordinators at the Service Coordinator Statewide Meeting was postponed due to anticipated bad weather. An orientation will be presented via conference call on September 22nd from 9:30 - 11:30. Details regarding this conference call will be forthcoming. We welcome all LES Training Coordinators and look forward to this orientation session.

2008 FALL PUBLIC AWARENESS SURVEY

EARLY STEPS PROMOTIONAL ITEMS:

Once again we will be purchasing promotional items for each Local Early Steps. Please choose one option from the list below and ESSO will order your choice to be shipped to your LES. If you'd like to purchase additional amounts we are happy to share the vendor and pricing information with you.

Please Choose ONE:

Option 1: 1,250 pencils

or

Option 2: 500 pens

or

Option 3: 400 boxes of crayons

EARLY STEPS STICKERS:

Additionally, we will be re-ordering Early Steps Stickers for LES. We can order 1000, 1500, or 2000 stickers according to your needs. Please let us know if you need stickers and how many you request.

Thank you and **please send your response to catherine_duncan@doh.state.fl.us** - by September 19th.

CMS PROVIDER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The CMS Network is planning to implement the fourth phase of our CMS Provider Management System titled Commodities and Service Providers (transportation providers, equipment suppliers, Local Education Agencies, etc). The data entry for these providers will be done at the Local Early Steps office and will require primarily only the entry information necessary to process claims. There should be a designated person from each LES service area who will have access to the system to enter this information.

This may be your provider relations person, or another designated individual. **Please send the name of each office's designee by Friday, September 19, 2008** to Vicki Posner at vicki_posner@doh.state.fl.us with the following info:

- Names (First and Last, MI)
- Title
- Email Address
- Telephone Number

The identified folks will be given the security access to input this provider information and will receive instructions on how to access the system and input the data. For additional information, please contact Vicki Posner at email listed above.

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

QUALITY ASSURANCE SELF ASSESSMENT 2008 - 2009

The Early Steps State Office has received completed self assessment information from all LESs. Thanks to everyone for your hard work on this important process - we are still on track with our timelines in spite of 2 hurricanes and at least 1 tropical storm!

TATS eUPDATE - TRANSITION - SEPTEMBER 2008

The eUpdate for the Transition Community of Practice will be distributed bi-monthly from September until May. The title of this eUpdate is TATS Resources for Transition. This update provides a walkthrough of the Transition Community of Practice web page on the TATS Web site. The site has many useful resources on the transition of children from Part C to Part B and from Part B to kindergarten. There are separate sections that families, teaching staff, and administrators might find helpful to learn more about the transition process and how to improve transition practices. This eUpdate provides an overview of these resources and provides a roadmap for the transition process and the many resources available to support transition. The primary audiences for this eUpdate are families, teaching staff, and administrators. If anyone you know is interested in the TATS communities of practice, they may sign up at any time by going to this link http://www.tats.ucf.edu/Forms/EnrollForm_Community_of_Practice.html

eUpdates are brief information bits which will be sent to you each month. Each update consists of a best practice, questions for reflection, and references and resource links around the topic. When they are distributed, the primary audience for each will be identified (teaching staff, administrators, and/or families). Please feel free to share them with your colleagues. We welcome any feedback on these and any ideas on future eUpdates. Thank you.

To view or download the eUpdate in Word Document:

<http://www.tats.ucf.edu/eUpdates/Transition-6.doc>

To view or download the eUpdate in Adobe Reader:

<http://www.tats.ucf.edu/eUpdates/Transition-6.pdf>

Technical Assistance and Training System (TATS)
for programs serving prekindergarten children with disabilities
Phone: 407-823-3058
Toll free: 1-888-823-8287
Fax: 407-823-1360
tats@mail.ucf.edu

NECTAC NEWS

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

UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AND CONFERENCES

SERVICE COORDINATOR STATEWIDE MEETING

The Early Steps State Office is working on finding dates to reschedule the 2008 Service Coordinator Statewide Meeting. The location will remain the same which is the Walt Disney World Resort Hilton in Orlando. Once dates are determined, all LESSs will be notified.

FAMILY RESOURCE SPECIALISTS FALL, 2008 STATEWIDE MEETING

The Early Steps Family Resource Specialists Fall, 2008 Statewide Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 5 – Friday, November 7, 2008. See the attached memo for more information or contact Sue Cannon, State Parent Consultant at sue_cannon@doh.state.fl.us.

SIGNING ON THE SPECTRUM: MEETING THE NEEDS OF DEAF CHILDREN WITH AUTISM

The Learning Center for the Deaf (in Framingham, MA USA) is proud to be the first school for the deaf to organize a national conference focusing exclusively on deaf and hard of hearing children who have autism. The goal of this conference is to bring together professionals in the fields of deaf education and advocacy with experts in the fields of autism, behavior and special education. The conference will be held October 24-25, 2008 in Natick/Framingham, MA (20 miles west of Boston).

The stimulating two-day program will provide educators, parents, therapists, professionals from state agencies, and others with valuable information regarding the education, care and support of deaf children with autism and their families. Friday's workshops will have an educator/professional focus, while Saturday's will focus on family's needs and supports. To see the conference agenda go to <http://www.regonline.com/tlc>.

Presentations include diagnosis and assessment of autism spectrum disorders in deaf children, literacy and assistive technology, and creating effective and meaningful home/school connections.

Conference participants are invited to submit poster proposals by October 1st. Participating in this portion of the conference will be an opportunity for attendees to share projects and research they have completed in the area of Deafness and autism. It will be a somewhat informal poster session. Presentations do not need to be data driven (although, this is always a plus). The goal is to highlight the work that is being done with this very unique population.

Examples of poster topics are: Teaching Chewing Behavior to a Deaf Preschooler with Autism, Using Smart Board Technology in an Elementary Class of Deaf Children with Autism Using PECS to Develop Spontaneous Sign Language in a Deaf Child with Autism.

Exhibitors and vendors are also invited to participate. This event will be a wonderful opportunity for an organization to highlight its programs and resources to a captive audience of professionals, educators, and families who are committed to enriching the lives of deaf and hard of hearing learners with autism. Please contact Amy Collins at amy_collins@tlcdeaf.org for more information.

To register, please visit <http://www.regonline.com/tlc>