



WEEKLY UPDATE – OCTOBER 10, 2008

ACTION NEEDED

NEW CMS WEBSITE

CMS is preparing to launch a new website and we need your assistance. The link below will take you to the new draft CMS internet site. This site has been developed based on our CMS marketing platform, marketing research, and with the assistance of an experienced web developer. This external site is targeted to the general public with a specific focus on families and providers.

As a provider we are asking for you to review the site with your office staff. Each page of the site has a SUBMIT BUTTON at the top; use this button to submit a comment that you have regarding that particular page. To prevent conflicting feedback, please provide one response per LES per page. To those of you who are parents, we hope for you to also closely review the website and submit comments. Your feedback is appreciated. [Please submit your comments by October 17.](#)

<http://cms.motechsystems.com/>

REQUEST FOR EARLY STEPS PROMOTIONAL ITEMS

We have not received every area's promotional items order and we will make the default selection of 1,250 pencils and 1000 stickers if we don't hear from your LES [by Tuesday Oct. 14th](#). [Please email your order to catherine_duncan@doh.state.fl.us](#) if you have not done so already.

QUESTIONS ABOUT SERVING CHILDREN WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

Thanks to those of you who have already replied to the questions below. [It would be greatly appreciated if LES responses could be received by Karen_Anderson@doh.state.fl.us by October 17th](#). This information will be very helpful during future discussions with the Division of Blind Services.

- What are the typical referral sources for children with visual impairment in your LES?
- Who are the providers that serve families of children with visual impairment in your LES?
- Are the DBS early intervention providers enrolled as Part C providers?
- Please share any issues with provider availability or timeliness of services that your LES is experiencing.

TOTS-N-TECH

Many of you are aware of Tots-n-Tech, an institute funded by OSEP to increase use of adaptations and assistive technology (AT) with infants and toddlers and their families. As part of this project, a web-based self-assessment tool is posted to create state profiles of best practices and [provide feedback and suggestions for ways to increase AT use](#). The link below can be used to register for and complete the 20-minute self-assessment.

<http://tnt.asu.edu/assessment>

PRIZE DRAWING - OCTOBER 31, 2008

On October 31, 2008, email addresses of all people who have completed the self-assessment will be entered into a cash prize drawing of:

GRAND PRIZE	\$500	(1 person)
1st Prize	\$250	(2 people)
2nd Prize	\$100	(4 people)
3rd Prize	\$50	(8 people)

FLORIDA KIDCARE SPONSORSHIP POOL OPPORTUNITY

Don't forget: if your organization is hosting or participating in a community event and is willing to also promote the Florida KidCare program, you may be eligible to receive financial assistance through the Florida KidCare sponsorship pool.

This pool of funds is designed to assist organizations such as yours offset the cost associated with participating in community events like booth rentals or advertising. In exchange for sponsorship funding we ask that you not only display Florida KidCare materials, but have staff on hand to respond to Florida KidCare questions and offer one-on-one application assistance to families. At the conclusion of the event, you will be required to submit an outcome summary of outreach efforts to Florida Healthy Kids.

If your organization is interested in applying or if you know of another organization in need, [please complete the attached application and fax it to Dwanna M. Gregory](#), Florida KidCare Outreach Manager Florida Healthy Kids Corporation at (850) 224-0615.

UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AND CONFERENCES

STATEWIDE CONFERENCE CALL TRAINING

The Early Steps State Office will be conducting a statewide training via a conference call on October 28, 2008 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Topics that will be covered will include the following:

- New notification fields in data system
- New SCONLY code in service taxonomy
- "Other services" vs. Early Steps services
- Using disposition code "unsuccessful attempts to contact" or "1"

The target audience for this training is service coordinators, service coordinator supervisors, and data entry staff. The call-in numbers and a PowerPoint presentation will be provided prior to the call via an ESSO Weekly Memo.

LES TRAINING COORDINATORS

A statewide conference call is scheduled for **November 3, 2008 from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm**. Please notify Kathleen Reese of agenda items, questions or topics you would like included on the agenda at Kathleen_Reese@doh.state.fl.us. A presentation on the ESSO Training Tool Kit and how to access it will be provided. Also, we will have time to answer any questions about the training deliverables and forms you have started working with. We appreciate the participation and enthusiasm of our statewide network of Training Coordinators which includes many stellar Local Early Steps leaders. Stay tuned to the ESSO Weekly Memos to learn more details about this conference call.

OSEP NATIONAL EARLY CHILDHOOD CONFERENCE

Registration is now open for the [OSEP National Early Childhood Conference](#), December 8-10, 2008, in Washington, DC. [Note: Pre-conference meetings will be held on December 6 and 7. State Part C Coordinators, Section 619 Coordinators, and ICC Chairs will meet on December 7. Post-conference sessions will be held on December 10.]

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

A MESSAGE FROM ARNETTA GIVENS

Early Steps Family,

As I just celebrated four years with Early Steps, I announce that I have accepted another position within CMS. On October 7th, I will transition to the Contract Management Unit under Delanah Gebhart. In this position, I will work with Aubrey Folsom on some Early Steps contracts, as well as learn about other CMS contracts. Making this move has not been an easy decision as I have found my work with Early Steps gratifying, but there are times when one must step out of their comfort zone to move ahead.

I would like to thank each of you for shared comments and endearing remarks. All were truly heartwarming and respectfully accepted and I hope humbly acknowledged. Thank you for all the encouragement, support and assistance I have received from each of you

So, I do not say goodbye or so long, but see you around!!!

A MESSAGE FROM ESSO

It is with mixed emotions that we congratulate Arnetta Givens on her promotion and bid her good luck in her new role at Children's Medical Services. Her enthusiasm, commitment and expertise in program technical assistance and performance improvement will be missed. We look forward to developing a new working relationship with her! Thank you, Arnetta, for your contributions to Early Steps!

ACCESS FREE MULTIMEDIA RESOURCES FROM SPECIALQUEST

Free, high quality resources are just a few clicks away in the [SpecialQuest Multimedia Training Library](#). This is the place to access an easy-to-use, comprehensive training curriculum for use in a variety of professional development settings. Resources are organized by themes: Including Infants and Toddlers (*and applicable to preschoolers*) with Disabilities; Building Relationships with Families; and Collaboration and Teaming, and each module includes a Facilitator's Guide, session scripts, handouts, and award winning videos. The handouts and videos are provided in both English and Spanish.

All the materials in the SpecialQuest Multimedia Library are online for viewing or downloading at <http://76.249.171.46/specialquest/trainingmaterials/index.lasso>. The site will allow you to participate in a tutorial, search for videos by title, and resources that have been developed by the Hilton/Early Head Start Training Program and SpecialQuest Birth-Five projects are available in the [Supplementary Materials](#) section. For more information, contact Sandy Tradewell (sandy.tradewell@specialquest.org or 707.849.4290).

NECTAC NEWS

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