



## WEEKLY UPDATE – JULY 15, 2010

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### *INFORMATION AND RESOURCES*

#### JUNE DATA COLLECTION OF ELIGIBILITY CHANGE IMPACT (With Attachment)

The data is IN! Thank you all for doing an excellent job of getting this data together, summarized and sent to us. The results are in the attached Excel file. We will be coming up with a plan for monitoring the implementation of the new eligibility criteria in the next couple of weeks. Stay tuned and THANKS AGAIN for your exceptional response.

Also, the Early Steps Eligibility Change Committee would like to further analyze the data you collected to determine our next steps. **Please mail your paper data collection forms for each individual child to Lynn Marie Price at one of the addresses below for arrival at the ESSO no later than July 23.**

FOR REGULAR MAIL:

Early Steps  
Children's Medical Services  
Florida Department of Health  
4052 Bald Cypress Way SE Bin #A06  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1707

FOR OVERNIGHT MAIL:

Early Steps  
Children's Medical Services  
Florida Department of Health  
4025 Esplanade Way, Rm. 235F  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1707

## **DISNEY UNVEILS FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND OUTDOOR AUDIO DESCRIPTION**

### **Technology for Guests with Disabilities**

*National Society of Professional Engineers Names Handheld Assistive  
Technology Device  
"New Product of the Year"*

Beginning June 27, guests with visual disabilities will be able to explore Walt Disney World theme parks in a whole new way through an enhanced Disney-designed device that provides detailed audio description of outdoor areas and fits in the palm of a guest's hand.

"Disney Parks have long been at the forefront of providing accessibility for guests with disabilities," said Greg Hale, chief safety officer and vice president of Worldwide Safety and Accessibility for Walt Disney Parks & Resorts. "We are pleased to build on this legacy with new technology that enables us to do something that has never been done before – provide rich audio description in moving rides and outdoor environments."

Via an interactive audio menu, the newly enhanced Assistive Technology Device lets guests choose the type of information they would like to receive about outdoor areas, from architectural elements to the location of the nearest restroom. The 7.2-ounce device, which utilizes wireless technology to pinpoint its location and take pre-programmed actions also offers guests at Walt Disney World Resort and Disneyland Resort:

- Detailed audio description of key visual elements, including action and scenery, for more than 50 attractions;
- Amplified audio for most theater-type attractions for guests with mild to moderate hearing loss;

- -Handheld captioning that enables guests to read captions while enjoying specific rides; and
- -Activation of closed captioning in pre-show areas where television displays narrate the upcoming experience.

“I know of no other public space in this country – or anywhere else for that matter – that is as welcoming and accessible to people with disabilities as Disney’s theme parks,” said Larry Goldberg, director of media access at WGBH Boston, which is considered a pioneer in developing multimedia and new technologies that make media accessible for the disabled. “With their captioning systems for guests who are deaf or hard-of-hearing and now outdoor environmental description for guests who are blind or visually impaired, Walt Disney World is now more inclusive than ever. WGBH is proud of our role in helping make this happen.”

WGBH teamed up with Disney to deliver outdoor audio description, marking the latest collaboration between the two organizations, which began with the installation of WGBH's Rear Window® Captioning system in Disney's theater-based attractions in 1996.

Disney has patented and licensed the assistive technology, which could serve a wide variety of retail, commercial and industrial applications. The technology is already being used at the World of Coca Cola Museum, The Hall at Patriot Place and the Dallas Cowboys Stadium and will receive the National Society of Professional Engineers 2010 “New Product Award” next month.

“We are particularly excited to make this technology available beyond Disney Parks and extend accessibility where it was previously impractical,” added Hale. Softeq Development Corporation is licensed to make the technology available beyond Disney Parks.

Other examples of Disney Parks’ services for guests with disabilities include:

- Accessible Experiences – From vehicles at Toy Story Midway Mania! that enable guests to remain in their wheelchair during the ride to American Sign Language interpretation at live shows, the focus is on providing accessible experiences.
- Recreation Devices – Specially designed vehicles, such as an adaptive golf cart and sand and aquatic wheelchairs, enable guests to experience leisure activities throughout the resort.
- -Guide maps for Guests with Disabilities – Theme park-specific maps provide an overview of services and facilities available for guests with

disabilities. Braille guidebooks are also available to assist guests during their visit.

- -Resort Access – Resort hotels at Walt Disney World Resort offer special equipment and facilities for guests with disabilities such as phone text, visual indicator door knocks and sloped-entry pools.

The Handheld Assistive Device is offered at no cost with a refundable deposit at Walt Disney World Resort and Disneyland Resort theme parks. Audio description of outdoor areas will be available at Disneyland Resort next year. For further information about services for guests with disabilities, guests should visit the Walt Disney World Web site at [disneyworld.com](http://disneyworld.com) or contact Walt Disney World Information at 407-824-4321 (voice) or 407-827-5141 (TTY).

## **RESEARCH SURVEY ON TEACHING CAREGIVERS DURING EARLY INTERVENTION VISITS**

The Thomas Jefferson University, Child and Family Studies Research Programs is soliciting survey participants for their research in to early intervention, effective caregiver teaching practices. We encourage you to forward the message below to your providers to complete.

Dear Early Intervention Providers,

We are conducting a survey to better understand early intervention providers' perspectives on teaching caregivers during early intervention visits. Effectively teaching caregivers is a critical component of family-centered recommended practice. However, there is little research in this area.

If you provide early intervention services to children birth to three, we ask to please give us your valuable perspective on teaching caregivers.

The survey should take 20 minutes or less to complete, and results may help identify strategies that may make teaching less challenging. Additionally, you will be eligible to win a gift card in the amount of \$50 or \$100.

Here is a link to the survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/339B63V>

Thanks for your consideration!

Brook Sawyer, Ph.D.

Child and Family Studies Research Programs Thomas Jefferson University

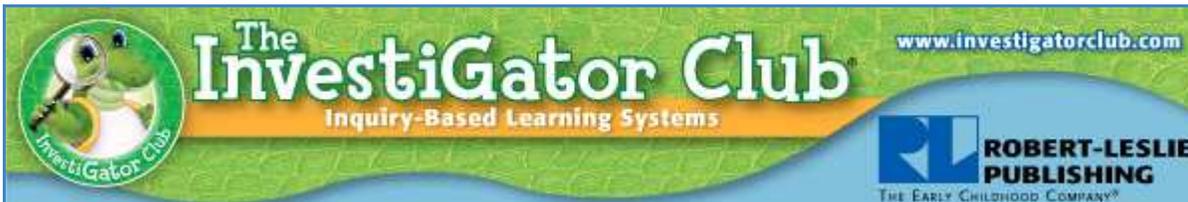
## CONGRATULATIONS, JANET ATKINSON (With Attachment)

Bay Area Early Steps Family Resource Specialist, Janet Atkinson, was the recipient of the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual FDLRS Parent Services, "Excellence in Action- Positive Parent Involvement" Award at a ceremony which was held May 6th at the Doubletree Hotel, Tampa/ Westshore Airport.

## NECTAC NEWS

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

## *UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS/TRAININGS*



Dear Colleague,

We're pleased to invite you to [Early Childhood Investigations: A Webinar Series Sponsored by Robert-Leslie Publishing](#). We launched this unique initiative to bring insights about trends in early care and learning from the movers and shakers in our field right to your desktop. Hearing from other experts from around the country exposes you to great ideas and can open new doors for your program. We want to

make it easy for you to take a brief break in your day to refresh yourself with new ideas that you can use to enhance your program and make a difference for the families, children, and staff members in your program.

Here's the line up of the first series:

**[Supervising and Supporting Preschool Programs with Two or More Languages by Karen Nemeth, M.Ed.](#)**

**Wednesday, July 21, 2010.....COMING SOON! SPACES ARE LIMITED!  
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EDT  
FREE!**

**REGISTER NOW**

**[Supporting "The Literacy Loop" in Every Classroom: A Planning Guide for Early Childhood Administrators by Cathy Puett Miller](#)**

**Wednesday, August 11, 2010  
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EDT**

**REGISTER NOW**

**[A Conversation with Ellen Galinsky About Mind in the Making: The Seven Essential Life Skills Every Child Needs](#)**

**Wednesday, September 15, 2010  
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EDT  
FREE!**

**REGISTER NOW**

**[10 Leadership Tips to Inspire Your Early Childhood Program Staff by Deborah J. Stewart, M.Ed.](#)**

**Wednesday, September 22, 2010  
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EDT  
FREE!**

**REGISTER NOW**

**[We're off to see the Wizard: Child Care Administration 2.0, presented by Chip Donohue, Ph.D.](#)**

**Wednesday, October 6, 2010**

**2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EDT  
FREE!**

**REGISTER NOW**

**[Brain Insights For Early Educators: Stimulating Brain Development in Your Program by Deborah McNelis, M.S.](#)**

**Wednesday, November 10, 2010**

**2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EST  
FREE!**

Register Now for **[Brain Insights For Early Educators: Stimulating Brain Development in Your Program](#)**

We hope you will join us for one or more of the webinars in this exciting new series. We look forward to connecting with you and hearing your feedback about the sessions.

## INNOVATIONS IS AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS CONFERENCE

SAVE THE DATE



# ASDnet

at the University of South Florida

## *Innovations in Autism Spectrum Disorders*

September 24, 2010 • 8am-5pm  
Wyndham Hotel Westshore, Tampa

This one-day conference for professionals and families will showcase the work of the ASDnet faculty across the USF system.

WHAT IS?  
**ASDnet**

*Click here to watch  
the Video!*

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

<http://card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu/ASDnet/ASDnet>

For more information, please contact Donna Casella  
813-974-6168 • [Dcasella@fmhi.usf.edu](mailto:Dcasella@fmhi.usf.edu)

**USF** UNIVERSITY  
SOUTH FLORIDA