

## **Summer Early Intervention Vision Mini Camp**

June 20 and 21, 2017

Illinois State University Alumni Center, 1101 Main Street, Normal, Illinois

### **June 20, 2017**

9:00-9:45 Registration and Sign In

9:45 – 10:00 Welcome, Gail Olson

10:00-11:30 SESSION

Title: The Unique Role of the O&M Specialist from Birth to Three

Description: A great foundation is necessary for becoming a successful adult. Through this hands-on, interactive workshop, participants will be equipped to readily apply skills, techniques, and knowledge to ensure our youngest ones are successful now and in the future.

Bio: As a COMS and TVI, Marjorie Wood has over 25 years experience in working with babies with visual impairments. She's worked as a COMS and lead teacher in a center-based program and itinerant in homes and day-care centers. Since 2010, Marjorie has been giving workshops and presentations throughout the US and Canada on various topics related to babies from pre-purposeful movement to transitioning to school. She is very passionate about helping others understand the COMS' unique and extremely important role in early intervention.

11:30-12:30 Lunch on Your Own

12:30-4:00 SESSION

Title: The Unique Role of the O&M Specialist from Birth to Three (continued)

4:00-4:15 Break

4:15-5:15 SESSION

Title: Early Intervention State System Updates

Description: Updates in the Illinois Early Intervention system as they relate to DTV's and DTO&M's will be shared. Topics include: The status of Designated

Service Coordination, the Revised Provider Handbook, EI Monitoring, and the ECTA Center/National Recommended Practices. (Participants from Midwest states other than Illinois may choose not to attend this session.)

Bio: Chelsea Guillen has always enjoyed helping people learn. She began her work in early intervention in a small, home based program in rural Southern Illinois. Since then, Chelsea has fulfilled many roles in the early intervention system including family member, interventionist, administrator, and professional development provider. Chelsea holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Kenyon College and a Master of Science degree in Child Development with an Infancy Specialization from Erikson Institute. She currently serves as the Early Intervention Ombudsman in Illinois and provides technical assistance to system stakeholders to improve results for children and families. Her central belief in the importance of partnering with families to enhance their competence and confidence in meeting their children's needs guides all of her work.

6:00-8:00 Optional Illinois EI Provider Networking Event (location TBD)

## **June 21, 2017**

8:15-8:30 Housekeeping, Gail Olson

8:30-9:00 SESSION

Title: The Zika Virus: What Do We Need to Know as Early Interventionists?

Description: Babies born with microcephaly due to the Zika Virus face a significant chance of vision problems or even blindness. What are other countries currently facing related the children already affected and what is the status of Zika prevention and prevalence in the United States?

Bio: Mindy Ely has worked in the field of blindness since 1993. She has been a Teacher of the Visually Impaired, Early Intervention Developmental Therapist/Vision, Vision Specialist with Hearing and Vision Connections and Resource Specialist with STARNET I and III. She is currently a doctoral student in Early Childhood at the University of Illinois and Program Coordinator for the Illinois State Early Intervention Graduate Certificate program called EL VISTA.

When not at work, Mindy enjoys spending time with her husband and two teenage boys.

#### 9:00-10:15 SESSION

Title: Developing a Positive Feeding Routine for Babies with a Visual Impairment

Description: Marla will share information about a mealtime study that Cathy Smuth and Kay Ferrell are conducting. The study is training DTV/ TVI's to work with families to develop positive mealtime routines for infants and toddlers with visual impairments which will facilitate and foster critical skills for success.

Bio: Marla Gartska is the Director of Children's Programs North for the Chicago Lighthouse program which includes developing programs for children and their families at the Glenview facility. Marla also serves a caseload of children, including direct service, evaluations and supervising the Lighthouse's early intervention team.

#### 10:15-11:15 SESSION

Title: Thinking Outside the Box: Homemade Toys

Description: Professionals in Early Intervention are strongly encouraged to use materials found within the child's natural environment to promote growth and developmental progress. In this session, a variety of items made from every day materials commonly found within homes will be shared. How to make the materials, use the materials, and enhance caregiver involvement will be discussed. Please bring items to share as well.

Bio: Sara Edwards is a Teacher for the Visually Impaired and Early Intervention Developmental Therapist/Vision. She has worked for the Illinois School for the Visually Impaired in the Birth to Three program since 2011. She graduated from Special Education-Low Vision and Blindness program at Illinois State University and, more recently, from the Special Education Master's program at Illinois State University in May 2017. She enjoys being able to reach out to families in Early Intervention and share her experiences of raising two young children with visual impairments.

11:15-12:15 Session

Title: Babies Count National Data Base

Description: Mindy will provide an update on the status of Babies Count: The National Registry Infants and Toddlers with Visual Impairment. Included will be information about what results are currently telling us about infants and toddlers across the country and how public and private programs can participate in the data collection process.

Bio: (See Mindy Ely bio above)

12:15-12:30 Evaluations/ Wrap Up