



September 10, 2010

*Children will get the services they need...
Families will get the supports they need...
First Steps will be within budget...*

Newsletter Highlights...

- Provider shortages-We need your help!
- PD Opportunities
- Get involved as an electoral advocate
- AT survey
- State Lead Agency Update

Provider Shortages:

Several districts expressed the concern about provider shortages affecting their service areas. This may mean the number of providers serving specific counties has decreased or some disciplines may not be represented in a county. First Steps is asking for you to consider the possibility of expanding your service area to capture the areas in need. Primarily, the areas in need are in the more rural areas of the state. You may know of someone interested in working for First Steps and can encourage them to contact Jackie Neal, State Lead Agency Provider Enrollment Administrator at 1-877-417-8377 ext. 4049 or jacki.neal@ky.gov for more information about the program and directions on how to get started with the enrollment process.

Thank you for your consideration!

Professional Development Opportunity:

Early Speech-Language Development: Taking Theory to the Floor

Presented by **Laura Mize**, M.S., CCC-SLP

KY First Steps Pediatric SLP and founder of www.teachmetotalk.com

If you've struggled with designing effective treatment plans for your youngest clients (ages birth to 4), then this is the conference for you! We'll be spending the entire day talking about TREATMENT strategies, and I'll introduce you to my SIMPLE TREATMENT HIERARCHY complete with checklists and a whole day full of treatment strategies to encompass the entire gamut of your caseloads from non-verbal children with social communication disorders to toddlers who are ready to work on intelligibility issues. How do you make treatment decisions, prioritize goals, and determine what techniques to use in sessions? How do you maximize a child's participation in sessions AND your effectiveness as an early intervention professional? This course will help you clarify your position, your philosophy, and your overall approach as you provide services for your youngest clients. If you're a seasoned professional (like me!) or a new grad, you're sure to leave this conference with treatment guidelines to support your practice in your state's early intervention program. **Laura Mize**

Where/When: Edinburgh/Columbus, IN - Thursday, **September 17, 2010**
Evansville, IN - Thursday, **September 23, 2010**

For more information about the conference click [here](#).

To register for the Evansville location, click [here](#).

To register for the Edinburgh/Columbus location, click [here](#).

Questions? Email laura@teachmetotalk.com.

Be an Electoral Advocate on early experiences for children:

Download September's Advocacy Developmental Milestone Calendar

As the November elections approach, you have the opportunity to educate the candidates in your state about why early experiences matter. There are many ways you can participate in the electoral process as an individual who has research, knowledge, and expertise to share.

<http://capwiz.com/zerotothree/utr/1/KDWWNBOXBI/LMVUNBPFGT/5685095201>

Assistive Technology Survey:

Western Kentucky Assistive Technology Center (WKATC) has compiled a survey to gather baseline data about assistive technology in early intervention. WKATC intends to design trainings geared toward providers, service coordinators and primary level evaluators based on feedback from the survey. Please take a few minutes and complete the survey! It is very important WKATC receives as much feedback as possible!

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/87PRN65>

State Lead Agency Update

DCES Responsibility

Effective September 1, 2010, the District Child Evaluation Specialists (DCES) began reviewing all requests for Record Review prior to submission to the First Steps Record Review Team at the University of Louisville. Record Review may be requested for eligibility determination or service exceptions. This review is part of the quality assurance and leadership roles envisioned for the DCES. The purpose of the review is to ensure that only requests that have all required information are sent forward.

Specialized Technical Assistance Supports

Three (3) contracts have been awarded that support specialized topics for technical assistance (TA):

- Western Kentucky Assistive Technology Center will be providing TA and training on Assistive Technology. Included in this contract are face-to-face training, online opportunities and a Community of Practice for providers and families.
- Visually Impaired Preschool Services (VIPS) will be developing two online training modules regarding early intervention for children with visual impairments, provide face-to-face training and provide TA to IFSP teams. They will also conduct a needs assessment on the provider capacity for children with visual impairments.
- Heuser Hearing Institute will also develop online training modules, provide a face-to-face training and provide TA to IFSP teams regarding children who are deaf or have hearing impairments.

Training Updates

Face-to-Face Provider Orientation September 21, 2010 in Louisville, KY **TRAIN #1024049**

Upcoming Face-to-Face Provider Orientation trainings in October will include one Saturday training to accommodate providers who cannot attend training during the work week. This training will be held in Louisville, KY. Please watch TRAIN and future newsletters for updates on Face-to-Face Provider Orientation training.

Assessment trainings are provided by State Technical Assistants throughout the state:

September:

15th: HELP -Louisville

28th: Carolina-Bowling Green

October:

5th: HELP-Florence

6th: Carolina-Louisville

December:

14th: Carolina-Louisville

Please check TRAIN for additional assessment training opportunities!

Mandatory Child Evaluator Video Conference will be held October 12, 2010 from 1:30-3:30pm. Registration is now available on TRAIN-#1024186. Deadline for registration is October 5, 2010.

Family Survey

The annual First Steps Family Survey will begin hitting mailboxes September 17. Please encourage families to return them promptly. Familiarize yourself with the survey in case a family has questions. You may answer a family member's question(s) regarding the survey but, please do not choose an answer for them. Remember the input received on these surveys is shared with the Federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) and thus is extremely valuable to the Early Intervention System of care.



Dear Families,

We need your help! We know you are busy, but we just need a few minutes of your time to help us continue to provide quality services to infants and toddlers in Kentucky. Please take a few minutes to fill out the enclosed *parent survey* concerning your experiences with the First Steps program.

Providing this information will tell us about the job we are doing and how we can improve. The information from this survey will also be shared with the folks who fund the First Steps program. Your opinion really matters to us! Please know that the surveys will be read and the information will be used to improve the quality of the services we offer.

Thanks so much for your time. Please return the surveys by **September 30th, 2010**. If you have any questions, please talk with your service coordinator or feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Connie Covert, State Parent Consultant for First Steps
859-257-6427
cccoov2@uky.edu

Beverly Malone, State Parent Consultant for First Steps
502-852-0374
Beverly.Malone@louisville.edu



FIRST STEPS

KENTUCKY'S EARLY INTERVENTION SYSTEM

Estimada familia:

¡Necesitamos su ayuda! Sabemos que usted está ocupado. Pero sólo necesitamos unos pocos minutos de su tiempo para que usted nos ayude a seguir ofreciendo servicios de calidad a los bebés y niños en Kentucky. Por favor tome algunos minutos para llenar la encuesta para padres que está relacionada con sus experiencias con el programa First Steps.

La información que usted proporcione nos dirá acerca del trabajo que estamos haciendo y cómo podemos mejorarlo. La información de esta encuesta será compartida con los contribuyentes del programa First Steps. ¡Su opinión es muy importante para nosotros! Por favor tome en cuenta que las encuestas serán leídas y la información será utilizada para mejorar la calidad de los servicios que ofrecemos.

Muchísimas gracias por su tiempo. Por favor devuelva la encuesta antes del **30 de septiembre de 2010**. Si usted tiene alguna pregunta, por favor hable con su coordinador de servicios o siéntase libre de llamarnos.

Atentamente,

Connie Coovert, Consultora Estatal para el Programa First Steps
859-257-6427
cccoov2@uky.edu

Beverly Malone, Consultora Estatal de Padres de Familia para el Programa First Steps
502-852-0374
Beverly.Malone@louisville.edu



FAMILY OUTCOMES SURVEY

Instructions: The Family Outcomes Survey focuses on the helpfulness of early intervention provided by First Steps. For each question below, please select how helpful early intervention has been to you and your family over the past year: Not at all helpful, a little helpful, somewhat helpful, very helpful, or extremely helpful. Darken the circle in the column that best describes your experience with First Steps.		Not at all helpful	A little helpful	Somewhat helpful	Very helpful	Extremely helpful
Knowing your rights						
How helpful has early intervention been in...						
1.	giving you useful information about services and supports for you and your child?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2.	giving you useful information about your rights related to your child's special needs?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3.	giving you useful information about who to contact when you have questions or concerns?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4.	giving you useful information about available options when your child leaves the program?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5.	explaining your rights in ways that are easy for you to understand?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Communicating your child's needs						
How helpful has early intervention been in...						
6.	giving you useful information about your child's delays or needs?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7.	listening to you and respecting your choices?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8.	connecting you with other services or people who can help your child and family?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9.	talking with you about your child and family's strengths and needs?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
10.	talking with you about what you think is important for your child and family?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
11.	developing a good relationship with you and your family?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Helping your child develop and learn						
How helpful has early intervention been in...						
12.	giving you useful information about how to help your child get along with others?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
13.	giving you useful information about how to help your child learn new skills?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
14.	giving you useful information about how to help your child take care of his/her needs?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
15.	identifying things you do that help your child learn and grow?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
16.	sharing ideas on how to include your child in daily activities?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
17.	working with you to know when your child is making progress?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

When finished, please place the completed survey in the envelope enclosed with the survey. No postage is required—just drop the completed survey in the nearest mail box. To have your input included in the report to the US Department of Education, mail the survey no later than **09/30/2010**.

Thank you for your help with improving First Steps!



© 2010. Version: 2-5-10. "Developed by the Early Childhood Outcomes Center with support from the Office of Special Education Programs, U.S. Department of Education."



ENCUESTA SOBRE LOS RESULTADOS FAMILIARES

Instrucciones: La encuesta sobre los resultados familiares se concentra en el valor de la intervención temprana ofrecida por el programa First Steps. Por cada pregunta a continuación, por favor, escoja qué tan valiosa ha sido la intervención temprana para usted y su familia durante el último año: nada valiosa, poco valiosa, algo valiosa, muy valiosa o extremadamente valiosa. Llène completamente el círculo en la columna que mejor describe su experiencia con el programa First Steps.		Nada valiosa	Poco valiosa	Algo valiosa	Muy valiosa	Extremadamente valiosa
Conociendo sus derechos						
¿Qué tan valiosa ha sido la -intervención temprana en...						
1.	darle información útil sobre los servicios y apoyos disponibles para usted y su hijo?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2.	darle información útil sobre sus derechos en cuanto a las necesidades especiales de su hijo?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3.	darle información útil sobre con quién comunicarse cuando tiene preguntas o inquietudes?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4.	darle información útil sobre las opciones disponibles cuando su hijo sale del programa?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5.	explicarle sus derechos de manera que sean fáciles de entender?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Comunicando las necesidades de su hijo						
¿Qué tan valiosa ha sido la intervención temprana en...						
6.	darle información útil sobre los retrasos o necesidades de su hijo?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7.	escucharle y respetar sus decisiones?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8.	enviarlo a otros servicios o ponerlo en contacto con otras personas que pueden ayudar a su hijo y a su familia?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9.	hablar con usted sobre las fortalezas y las necesidades de su hijo y su familia?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
10.	hablarle de lo que usted cree que es importante para su hijo y su familia?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
11.	tener una buena relación con usted y su familia?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ayudando a su hijo a desarrollarse y a aprender						
¿Qué tan valiosa ha sido la intervención temprana en...						
12.	darle información útil sobre cómo ayudar a su hijo a llevarse bien con otras personas?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
13.	darle información útil sobre cómo ayudar a su hijo a aprender nuevas habilidades?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
14.	darle información útil sobre cómo ayudar a su hijo a satisfacer sus necesidades?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
15.	identificar cosas que usted puede hacer para ayudar a su hijo a crecer y aprender?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
16.	darle ideas sobre cómo incluir a su hijo en las actividades diarias?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
17.	trabajar con usted para que sepa cuando está progresando su hijo?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Quando termine, favor de colocar la encuesta debidamente contestada en el sobre adjunto a esta encuesta. No necesita sello postal-Solo coloque la encuesta debidamente contestada en el buzón de correos más cercano. Para que sus respuestas sean incluidas en el informe para el Departamento de Educación de los Estados Unidos, envíe la encuesta por correo antes del 09/30/2010.

¡Gracias por su ayuda en mejorar el programa First Steps!



© 2010. Version: 2-5-10. "Developed by the Early Childhood Outcomes Center with support from the Office of Special Education Programs, U.S. Department of Education."