



NREIC

Collaborations

Spring 2011

Published for the Early Intervention
Community of Bergen, Hudson and Passaic
Counties.

www.nreic.org
(973)-256-8484

Contributors for this issue:

Desireé Bonner
Michelle Massimi
Lisa Weinstein

Greetings from the NREIC:

Welcome Spring!!!



*The season of renewal and rebirth is upon us.
Like a newborn baby, this season brings with it the
sweetness of new beginnings and
endless possibilities....*



Read more: <http://www.beliefnet.com/Inspiration/2009/03/Great-Quotes-and-Sayings-About-Spring.aspx#ixzz1JQRD7pBf>

Inside this issue:

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| "Greetings from the NREIC" _____ | p. 1 |
| NREIC Golf Outing Event _____ | p. 2 |
| Early Intervention & Families _____ | p. 3 |
| NJEIS Policy Highlights and Helpful Tips For Families _____ | p. 4 |
| "The Family's Voice" _____ | p. 5 |
| Parent Involvement at the NREIC _____ | p. 6 |
| Early Literacy (RIF) _____ | p. 7 |
| EI Week Family Events _____ | pgs. 8 - 10 |
| EI Week Essay Contest _____ | pgs. 11 -12 |
| Community Partner Events _____ | pgs.13 -14 |

WHO IS THE NREIC?

Helpful Hands, The Northeast Regional Early Intervention Collaborative, Inc.

Helpful Hands, also known as the NREIC, is a not-for-profit organization whose goal is to promote quality, family-centered early intervention services in Bergen, Hudson and Passaic counties. **Helpful Hands** offers family education and support, professional training and technical assistance, and serves as a link between the state agency for early intervention, the Department of Health & Senior Services (DHSS) and the region. The NREIC also serves as the regional single point of entry for EI and hub for regional data collection. **Helpful Hands** is one of four regional early intervention collaborative offices in New Jersey.

Helpful Hands is a collaboration of parents and professionals working on behalf of infants and toddlers with a variety of developmental delays and/or disabilities. **Helpful Hands** seeks to ensure that all families are empowered to help their child grow to his or her fullest potential.



Notice herein of any workshop, seminar, conference, therapy, program, etc., not offered by Helpful Hands, the Northeast Regional Early Intervention Collaborative, Inc. (NREIC) does not constitute an endorsement of any specific organization, opinion or methodology by the NREIC

Helpful Hands-NREIC 15th Annual Golf Outing



June 20, 2011

Wild Turkey Golf Course, Hamburg, NJ

You can also spend the day poolside!

**Full access to the pools & locker rooms including the fabulous biosphere
indoor pool now available.**

Golf Fee: \$175.00
(breakfast, lunch, & all golf fees)



Pool /Luncheon Fee:\$60.00
(breakfast on your own)

*Full Brochure with detailed registration & sponsorship information avail-
able at www.nreic.org*

Individual Registration:

Please print and complete ALL information.

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Golfer: _____ Non-Golfer _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____ (checks payable to NREIC)

All payments are due June 9th, 2011.

Checks and registration should be returned to **NREIC:**
65 Willowbrook Blvd., Suite 206
Wayne, New Jersey 07470

***Please contact our Development Coordinator, Lisa Weinstein, Lisa@nreic.org
or (973) 256-8484, ext. 214 for further information or if you are interested in being a sponsor
at our event.***

How Does Early Intervention Support My Child and Family?

Early intervention recognizes and respects the important and central role of family in your child's life. We support families in their care-giving roles and want to help your family continue your daily activities while caring for your child. Our goal is to work with you in providing early intervention supports to you and your child.

All of us are better than one of us, which means that when working with infants, toddlers, and their families, no single individual, discipline, or agency can meet the many needs of each child. But together with you, your family, early intervention providers, service coordinators and other community agencies, we can work as a team to meet your child and family's needs and support your child's development.

We know that everyday family and community experiences, and events provide children with learning opportunities. Learning opportunities for your child are the places where children experience everyday activities that support and encourage your child's development and real world experiences.

Our goal is to help coach your family for success with your child.

This means that we want to collaborate with you to work with your child in places and times you see as learning opportunities, such as:

- * climbing the stairs to their room to get a favorite toy;
- * climbing the steps to the library for story hour;
- * learning to count and stack by helping fold laundry or put away dishes;
- * enhancing speech by singing along or learning sign language as part of everyday activities.

Pay close attention to what your child likes to do and is interested in doing in different places whether :

- * at home or daycare;
- * at the local park;
- * going to the mall;
- * going food shopping, or religious activities, or even to a "Mommy and Me" class.

As a family, you will want to respond to the things your child does in any place where learning can occur by doing something interesting and positive, such as:

- * Commenting on or praising what your child is doing;
- * Joining in your child's play;
- * Doing something interesting in response to your child's behavior;
- * Using toys that provide interesting responses to your child's behavior.

Together, we will help you encourage your child to do something new or different by:

- * Praising him/her for trying new or different behaviors;
- * Giving your child just enough support so that he/she can do a task, activity or skill better;
- * Arranging things so your child needs to use behavior in different ways in order to make things happen.

Adapted from *Natural Environments: Enhancing Learning Opportunities* by Mary Beth Bruder, Ph.D.



NJEIS Policy Highlights

To learn more about your *Family's Rights* in Early Intervention, please go to:

<http://nj.gov/health/fhs/documents/familyrights.pdf>

<http://nj.gov/health/fhs/eis/procsafeguards.shtml>

<http://nj.gov/health/fhs/eis/documents/faq.pdf>

TIPS FOR FAMILIES

- *It is most helpful when families provide their service coordinator and early intervention providers with the schedule (hours of operation and days closed) and contact information for their child's childcare center.*
- *Please inform your service coordinator if you are planning to move, and/or if the location of services needs to be changed.*

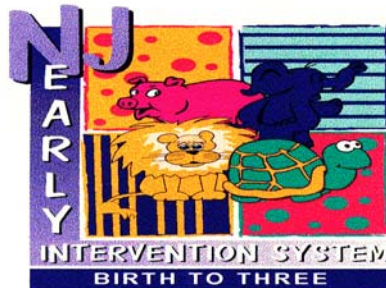


- *We strongly encourage families to only sign the service verification logs for the session provided on that day. Please check to make sure all information is accurate.*

Notice herein of any workshop, seminar, conference, therapy, program, etc., not offered by Helpful Hands, the Northeast Regional Early Intervention Collaborative, Inc. (NREIC) does not constitute an endorsement of any specific organization, opinion or methodology by the NREIC

Attention Early Intervention Families

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!!



The New Jersey Early Intervention System sends out an annual survey to families to collect information on how the early intervention services you received have helped you and/or your family.

By chance you may be one of the many families that are mailed the survey and asked to respond to 22 statements using a scale that goes from Very Strongly Agree to Very Strongly Disagree. The survey can be completed in less than 15 minutes on-line or filled in and mailed back in a postage paid envelope.

Your feedback is very important and gives good information about what we are doing well or could be doing better. The information is used each year to work on areas that need improvement.

If you receive a survey and would like help completing the survey on-line, please call your regional office listed below. A Family Support Coordinator will be happy to help you over the phone.

Bergen, Hudson and Passaic Counties: 973-256-8484

Essex, Morris, Sussex, Union and Warren Counties: 908-964-5303

Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean and Somerset Counties: 732-937-5437

Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland Gloucester & Salem Counties: 856-768-6747



Seeking Families for the NREIC Family Support & Community Outreach Committee

The Northeast Regional Early Intervention Collaborative, Inc. (NREIC) is seeking family members of children receiving early intervention services or recently transitioned from Early Intervention (EI), to participate on our Family Support and Community Outreach Committee. This is a sub-committee of the larger NREIC Board.

The primary purpose of this committee is to provide guidance and offer insight into ways to enhance supports and access to community resources for families receiving EI services in our region, comprised of Bergen, Hudson and Passaic counties.

The Committee meets three times per year and includes representatives from the NREIC Board of Trustees, NREIC staff, community representatives and family members of infants and toddlers with developmental delays and/or disabilities. There is a \$25 stipend available for parents who participate, but unfortunately, childcare cannot be provided.

All meetings begin at 9:30am and are held at the NREIC office at:

**Helpful Hands, NREIC
65 Willowbrook Boulevard, Suite 206
Wayne, NJ 07470
For directions: go to www.nreic.org**



For further information about the
Family Support & Community Outreach Committee
Or to become a member, please e-mail
Desirée Bonner, Director of Family Support,
Desiree@nreic.org, or call (973)-256-8484



RIF Multicultural Literacy Campaign



Fact Sheet

About the Campaign

The RIF Multicultural Literacy Campaign is a multi-year effort to promote and support early childhood literacy in African-American, Hispanic and Native American communities, where reading scores are lowest. The campaign includes parent and caregiver training materials and workshops, the RIF Leading to Reading website (www.rif.org), multicultural book collections for children, community partnerships, and public education campaigns.

Understanding the Reading Gap

| | Children Under the age of 6 | % Children Living in Poverty | % Children in Single Parent Households | % Children Read to Every Day | % of 4 th Graders at or above Basic Reading Level |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| African American | 3.4 million | 33% | 46% | 33% | 42% |
| Hispanic | 4.4 million | 28% | 24% | 41% | 46% |
| Native American | 432,000 | 27% | 31% | N/A | 48% |
| White | 13.5 million | 9% | 18% | 61% | 76% |
| Asian | 941,000 | 11% | 17% | N/A | 73% |

Sources: 2000 Census Data/Casey Foundation, NAEP 2005, Department of Education)

Children from Low Income Families are at Greatest Risk for Reading Difficulties. Other risk factors include being in single-parent households, maternal education level, and English not being the primary language spoken at home. (e.g., Dubow & Ippolito, 1994)

Language Development Critical in First Five Years of Life. During preschool years, language develops far more rapidly than any other time. Children's language abilities predict later success in learning to read and write. (Snow, Burns & Griffin, 1998).

Importance of Reading to Young Children. Reading to young children enhances their language development, especially vocabulary, because the structures and words used in books are more varied than in speech. Knowing more words, in turn, helps children make sense of print and find what they read more meaningful and interesting. (Dickinson & Tabors, 2001)

Reading Readiness Supports Academic Success. Reading readiness is highly predictive of later academic performance. Reading deficits in children which appear early are likely to maintain over time, thereby reducing the likelihood of catching up to their peers. (Whitehurst & Lonigan, 1998)

Campaign Supporter:



Media Partners:



In Recognition of Early Intervention Week 2011

Helpful Hands, NREIC
Invites Early Intervention Families to

A Special Storytime



☞ **May 18th, 2011** ☞
11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Ridgewood Public Library*
Story Tower in Children's Department
125 N. Maple Ave
Ridgewood, NJ 07450

(This event is not sponsored by the Ridgewood Public Library)

A special interactive story time will be presented for children, ages 18 months-3 years old. After the presentation, there will be an opportunity to network with other families with children enrolled in early intervention.



To Register: please call Michelle @ 973-256-8484 or e-mail to Michelle@nreic.org.

**Space is limited to 15 children total
and their caregivers, who must stay for the presentation.
Siblings under 4 may attend, as long as there is room.**

The NREIC and Ridgewood Public Library assume no responsibility for childcare or personal possessions

In Recognition of Early Intervention Week 2011

Helpful Hands, NREIC
Invites Early Intervention Families to



A Toddler Play date
(for ages 18 months+)

at

FUN TIME JUNCTION



400 Fairfield Road
Fairfield, New Jersey
(973) 882-9777 or www.funtimejunction.com

Tuesday, May 17th, 2011

10:15 am to 12:00 noon

Free admission for EI toddlers & Siblings under 5
(all children must be wearing socks!)

Sand Art Activity is included!

To Register, please call Lisa @ 973-256-8484 or send an
e-mail to Lisa@nreic.org. Space is limited and
caregivers, must stay to supervise their children.

The NREIC assumes no responsibility for childcare or personal possessions.



Families & Providers:
**Family Link, Helpful Hands &
Mid Jersey CARES**
Regional Early Intervention Collaboratives
Presents

Michelle Lockwood

on

Positive Behavioral Supports

WHEN: Monday, May 16, 2010

WHERE: Summit Speech School

EM Kirby Center

705 Central Avenue

New Providence, NJ 07974

(908) 508 - 0011

TIME: 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Positive Behavioral Support (PBS) is a research-based proactive approach, to teach or replace misbehaviors. The focus is on prevention and intervention practices.

Learn about PBS and why punishing problem behaviors without a proactive support system can cause more problems.

Get answers to the following: What is most important to know about my child's behavior? How can teachers use PBS in the classroom? Is PBS supported by research? How can I apply the strategies at home?

Michelle Lockwood is a Positive Behavioral Support Specialist with NJ Coalition for Inclusive Education. She holds a Masters degree in Counseling Psychology with a focus on Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for children & adolescents, she has extensive experience in teaching the principles of PBS to facilitate the successful inclusion of students with disabilities in school.

LIMITED SEATING

**** RSVP REQUIRED ****

(Please leave name & telephone number)

RSVP Contact:

Mid-Jersey CARES Early Intervention Collaborative

Daisy Linares (732) 937-5437 ext 125 or

email REICadmin@cnjmchc.org

**** If an interpreter or childcare is needed, please let us know as soon as possible. ****



Helpful Hands, NREIC
The Northeast Regional Early Intervention Collaborative, Inc.

**New Jersey Early Intervention Week Essay
Contest**
May 15, 2011—May 21, 2011

[New Jersey Early Intervention Week Overview and Essay Topic](#)

New Jersey Early Intervention Week was created to recognize that all children have special and unique gifts that deserve the care and attention of their families and communities. The State recognizes the challenges families face and the courage needed to do so. The State also recognizes how the New Jersey Early Intervention System (NJEIS) plays an essential role in supporting families to ensure that all infants and toddlers have the opportunity to develop, grow and ultimately, lead productive lives in the community.

In that spirit, families and caregivers are asked to compose an essay outlining:

“What Early Intervention Has Meant to My Family.”

Essays should describe the following points:

- **What has been the most rewarding experience for your child and family as a part of the New Jersey Early Intervention System?**
- **What tips or strategies have you learned that have helped your child’s development?**
- **How has a New Jersey Service Coordinator and/or an NJEIS Provider supported your family?**

[NREIC Essay Guidelines:](#)

Essays must be at least 250 words in length, however, no more than 500 words. Submissions must be typewritten and double-spaced in English. Only **one** entry per household will be accepted including households where two or more children have received or are receiving New Jersey early intervention services. Essays must detail the experiences of a child and family that have received NJEIS services within the past 12 months (**April 2010 to present**).





NREIC Essay Contest Eligibility and Entry Rules:

Participants must be a New Jersey resident living in the NREIC region (Bergen, Hudson & Passaic Counties), and have a child that has received New Jersey Early Intervention Services within the past 12 months (**April 2010 to present**).

Employees of the Department of Health and Senior Services, NREIC and its Board of Trustees, Service Coordination Units, Regional Service Provider Agencies, SICC, and their immediate families are ineligible for this contest.

Each entry must be submitted with an entry cover letter detailing the author's name, address, telephone number, New Jersey Early Intervention Service Coordinator, New Jersey Early Intervention Provider Agency or agencies and month and year of initial New Jersey early intervention eligibility.

Submissions sent without this information will be ineligible.

All entries must be in the NREIC office by 5 pm on Friday, May 27, 2011.

All submissions should be mailed to:

Desirée Bonner, Director of Family Support
65 Willowbrook Boulevard, Suite 206,
Wayne, NJ 07470 or
emailed to: desiree@nreic.org

You must include all of the information stated above within your e-mail correspondence.

NREIC Prizes:

Grand Prize winning essay will receive a **\$100.00 Gift Card** to Babies R Us.

First Place winning essay will receive a **\$50.00 Gift Card** to Babies R US.

All entrants will receive a Certificate of Participation and winners will be notified via email and/or mail in early June. The grand prize winner will also have their essay featured in our regional e-newsletter "Collaborations", featured on our regional website (www.nreic.org) and shared with the Statewide Interagency Coordinating Council.

NREIC Judging Panel:

The judging panel will consist of 3 individuals that represent the NJ Early Intervention System and/or Helpful Hands, the Northeast Regional Early Intervention Collaborative. Essays will be judged on style, content and overall relevancy to the topics. Decisions of the judging panel will be final.

NREIC ONLY

Date Received _____ Reviewed by _____



Community Partner Events



Maximizing Coverage Under the New Jersey Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities Insurance Mandate



Navigating insurance coverage for treatment of autism and other developmental disabilities can be challenging. The recent enactment of P.L. 2009 c. 115, the law known as, Health Benefits Coverage for Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities brings additional questions.

Autism New Jersey in collaboration with the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN), welcomes parents and professionals to attend this free workshop, which answers questions such as: are all plans required to comply?; who determines what treatments are medically necessary?; and what's the difference between a self-funded and a fully-insured plan?

Advocating for a child's right to health care is a shared effort between parents and professionals. Learn how the mandate affects delivery of services for autism and other developmental disabilities, how it intersects with state and federal laws, and how to effectively navigate the process of obtaining coverage.

Passaic County

May 17, 2011

6-8pm

Wayne Public Library

461 Valley Rd.

Wayne, NJ 07470

Bergen County

June 9, 2011

6-8pm

CAPE Resource Center

327 E. Ridgewood Ave.

Ste. 212

Paramus, NJ 07652

To Register: Go to www.autismnj.org or call 1-800-4-AUTISM for more information.

Notice herein of any workshop, seminar, conference, therapy, program, etc., not offered by Helpful Hands, the Northeast Regional Early Intervention Collaborative, Inc. (NREIC) does not constitute an endorsement of any specific organization, opinion or methodology by the



**It's Your Right to Know!
Protecting the Rights of People who are
Blind or Visually Impaired
Friday, May 20, 2011
8:00 AM – 3:30 PM
New Jersey Law Center
One Constitution Square
New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901**



This Conference will provide valuable information for:

- NJ residents who are blind or visually impaired
- Parents of infants and school-aged children who are visually impaired
 - Advocates for persons with disabilities
 - Employers and service providers
-

This full day program will kick off with a lively keynote presentation by Lynnae Ruttledge, Commissioner, U.S. Rehabilitation Services Administration and will be followed by an informative panel of state, federal and community-based service providers.

Following the opening session, participants will attend workshops of their choice where they will receive relevant information on Education, Community-Life, Employment, and detailed descriptions of the Commission's services and programs.

This conference is free of charge. However, a refundable \$5.00 security deposit check, made payable to *The NJCBVI*, must accompany each registration. Deposit checks will be returned to those who attend the conference or to anyone who gives 72 hours notice of his or her inability to attend. Cash and purchase orders cannot be accepted. Registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. However, priority will be given to individuals eligible for CBVI services and their family members.

Registration Deadline: May 2, 2011

Seating is available for 200 only. Walk-in registrations will not be accepted.
A complimentary continental breakfast and sandwich luncheon will be served.

This FREE conference is cosponsored by the New Jersey State Bar Foundation and made possible through funding from the IOLTA Fund of the Bar of New Jersey. For further information e-mail pamela.gaston@dhs.state.nj.us or call 973-648-3333.

Notice herein of any workshop, seminar, conference, therapy, program, etc., not offered by Helpful Hands, the Northeast Regional Early Intervention Collaborative, Inc. (NREIC) does not constitute an endorsement of any specific organization, opinion or methodology by the NREIC