September 2015

Supervisors’ Meetings

All at Shriners’ Hospital
8:30 AM—4 PM

Wednesday, October 7, 2015
Wednesday, January 6, 2016
Wednesday, March 9, 2016
Wednesday, June 8, 2016

Be sure to register for each meeting!

Authentic Assessment as “Best Practice” for Early Childhood Intervention

The use of Authentic Assessment measures to assess young children is promoted by the major national professional organizations, Division of Early Childhood (DEC), National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAYEC), and the National Association of Early Childhood Specialists in State Departments of Education (NAECS/SDE), as “best practice” for use in early childhood intervention. Bagnato, Goins, Pretti-Frontczak, and Neisworth (2014) surveyed 969 early childhood education professionals from 22 states, regarding assessment measures of their choice. All of the respondents indicated they used both authentic and conventional testing in their practice. The professionals identified most authentic assessment tools are more appropriate and socially valuable for use with young children with disabilities than conventional assessments. Authentic assessments capture a more accurate, representative, and easily understood picture of a child’s capabilities which matches the impressions of the caregivers in the child’s life. The professionals reported observations of children in their natural environments lead to more appropriate and valid assessment results that are more applicable for a specific child’s strengths and needs. Further, an authentic assessment enables children to demonstrate their true, unrealized capabilities through any mode of response. Finally, authentic assessment is more useful for planning and evaluating the effectiveness of an individualized intervention program for children. (Bagnato, S. J., Goins, D. D., Pretti-Frontczak, K., & Neisworth, J. T., (2014). Authentic assessment as “best practice” for early childhood intervention: National consumer social validity research. Topics in

MONTHLY MINDER

Question of the Month

What happened to the Introduction to Early Intervention course for providers who are new to the system?

We updated and renamed the Intro course! “Foundations of Early Intervention in Philadelphia” begins in the 2015-16 training year and is designed for all providers who are new to the Philadelphia Infant Toddler Early Intervention system (regardless of their previous infant/toddler experience in other counties). Full description, course dates and registration are available on TLC’s website.

New providers need to bring a videotape (20-30 minutes in length) of their typical early intervention session to the first meeting. Encourage providers to film this as they begin providing service in Philadelphia.

Philadelphia Autism Project Conference: Awareness to Action

This conference provides concrete tools, innovative strategies, and vital resources for Philadelphians impacted by autism across the spectrum and lifespan. The conference is scheduled October 16, 2015 at the Parkway Central Library. To learn more go to the ASERT PA Autism website.

Upcoming Sensory Storytime Events

The Free Library of Philadelphia will be hosting Sensory Storytime Events for children ages 10 and younger. Attend an upcoming event on Monday September 14th or October 19th at 7pm at the Fumo Neighborhood Library OR on Wednesday, September 9th or October 7th at 6:30pm at the Torresdale Library Branch. Registration and attendance is FREE. Space is limited.