



Showcasing 2007

Showcasing is an opportunity for participants to present unique features about their programs, innovative ideas or techniques, or share the results of research and evaluation efforts. For the 2007 Sharing A Vision Conference the following will be presented:

October 18 - Thursday, 8:30 am – 10:30 am

Transitioning Impacts Life Long Learning: Supporting Infants, Toddlers, Preschoolers and Their Families

Deborah Kaiser, Kathy Kohlstedt and Nora Rice
Schaumburg School District 54, Schaumburg

This showcasing event addresses the impact transitions have on children early in their lives. The transitional process in early years lays the framework for how we approach life long learning. Early transitions include adjusting to a new sibling, toilet teaching, entering preschool and entering kindergarten. Conference attendees may view the PowerPoint presentations and parent handouts and explore the family “toolkit” materials (books, toys and hands on equipment supporting the transition topic).

Signing Time for Everyone

Martha Colgan-Reis, Beth Lauver and Dorothy Oaks
Central Early Childhood Center, Monmouth

This showcase will highlight a STAR NET Professional Growth Grant that allowed the educational staff at Central Early Childhood Center in Monmouth to learn American Sign Language and set up signing centers in all three of their preschool classrooms so all students had the opportunity to learn American Sign Language. In addition, visuals containing American Sign Language were displayed in the classrooms and opportunities to view instructional DVD's on American Sign Language were made available to parents.

Telephone Peer Support: An Innovative Concept for Supporting Mothers with Medically Complex Infants

Cathy Rodrigues

Mothers with medically complex infants face many challenges beyond those of typical births. Support groups or “Mothers’ Day Out” are a common way to help mothers cope with parenting demands. When an infant has a critical medical condition, however, the typical medical advice is to keep the baby home and away from others. While at home, the most convenient, less stressful, most economical means to access resources outside of the house is through the telephone. Delivering a support network over the phone in a virtual group format provides a cost-effective means to reach and help mothers with medically complex infants.

NAEYC Accreditation: Living and Reflecting the Standards in Quality Programs

Jeanne Mentgen
Peoria County Bright Futures

This showcase will promote the NAEYC standards through visuals, posters and handouts to help teaching staff and administrators learn about the accreditation process in order to achieve a high quality program. Learn how to embed the 10 NAEYC Standards in the daily practice of your program as recognized by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

October 18 - Thursday, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Fingers to Feet – Activities That Can’t Be Beat Motor Bags for Use at Home and School

Lisa Griffin, Kristina McGowan and Melissa Chrisos
Valley View Early Childhood Center in District 365U, Romeoville

Are you looking for new ideas to “jump start” your motor time or something to send home to families? Come and learn about the Valley View Early Childhood “Motor Bags.” These bags were developed by an Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist and teacher with directions in English and Spanish to enhance motor time and parent education activities. Children easily carry them home too! Interested educators will receive all the handouts to start your own “Motor Bag” program.

Together Time

Kris Stoffels and Marlene Byron
Community Unit School District 200, Wheaton

This display will demonstrate a model of how to integrate typically developing peers with students identified as having special education needs. Two classes meet 2-3 times weekly to participate in a variety of large and small group activities to enhance play and social skills and also learn to follow directions and target pre-readiness skills. The importance of the typically developing peers as models is crucial for the development and growth of age appropriate social, language and pre-readiness skills for children identified as having special needs. This time together promotes an understanding and acceptance that some friends may have different needs but **all** children are equal.

Ideas for Busy Parents: Playful Early Literacy Activities on a Podcast

Judy Potter
Center for Best Practices in Early Childhood, Western Illinois University

See and hear early literacy activity ideas on a new series of podcasts. If you have an iPod or MP3 player, you will be invited to download the series today. You will also be given resource information about accessing the podcasts at your convenience and opportunities to interact with materials. This showcase will include a slide presentation to support early literacy and technology best practices and samples of children's work with podcasting.

The Collaborative Hearing Screening Program for McHenry County

Karen Rios
Child and Family Connections # 25 / Options and Advocacy for McHenry County

The majority of referrals into Child and Family Connections #25, as in other CFC's around the state are for speech delays. Best practices dictate screening hearing during eligibility determination. This practice had many challenges, including limited time in the schedule of the Special Education District of McHenry County (SEDOM) and no-shows among the early intervention population. The CFC #25 in McHenry and SEDOM collaborated to develop and administer a hearing screening program for children under the age of three. This collaborative program was cost effective and accessible to families.

Facilitated Recreational Groups for Parents of Young Children in McHenry County

Lynn Liston and Karen Rios

Child and Family Connections #25 / Options and Advocacy for McHenry County

This program is a collaborative program between Options and Advocacy for McHenry County/Child and Family Connections # 25 (CFC) and the Northwest Special Recreation Association (NISRA). The groups occur weekly in four rotating locations in the County at local Park District facilities. They offer families an informational presentation, an opportunity to interact with other parents of young children developing typically, assistance with finding new ways to interact with their young child, and the opportunity to experience the programs offered in the community through the Park Districts.