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kansas in-service training system

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N E W S L E T T E R

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<http://kskits.org/kits-newsletters>

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Transitioning Back to a New Normal

While COVID-19 continues to be a challenge across the United States and in Kansas, communities struggle to maintain some sense of normalcy. Currently during this pandemic schools are developing their re-opening plans and Kansas tiny-k programs have worked to develop strategies that enabled a transition to tele-intervention services and now back to face-to-face visits. There continues to be many questions and concerns addressing how to maintain quality services while weighing the options of what these transitions should/could look like. Although many different approaches could be taken, it is important to note a few consistent themes can be found. These include the safety and well-being of providers and families and managing the changing status of state and local health guidance/restrictions. Despite these factors, services need to still be provided within guidelines of evidence-based practices and decisions need to be flexible and fluid due to the ever-changing conditions the virus brings.

The leadership of the tiny-k program at the state level has addressed challenges of service provision by supporting an infrastructure that allows local programs to be able to phase in decisions as well as individualize those decisions based on current need in their community and the needs of their families. In regard to the workforce and service delivery, the ability to phase in and out of a particular service delivery method has been a must. Some of the ways this individualization has been manifested is, personnel have altered work places and altered work schedules, providers and families re-visit needs of both from visit to visit, and local lead agencies are allowed and encouraged to make decisions that reflect the needs of their individual communities, agencies, staff, and families.

Early in the progression of the virus, tiny-k programs quickly adjusted to and developed tele-intervention strategies and practices. Now, programs are formulating a decision-making process that addresses the need for their program to support transitions from tele-intervention back to face-to-face. These plans reflect the potential for quick transitions from working at home and work offices

utilizing tele-intervention to face to face for service delivery or back to tele-intervention. The plan must also be flexible for each staff member depending on their risk category.

In addition to planning for the manner of service delivery, programs have also needed the support of the expanded ability to bill for Medicaid will utilizing tele-intervention. This is an important piece of the infrastructure, as it allows local programs to be seek appropriate reimbursement for both in-person and tele-intervention home visits. The ability for local lead agencies to use local supports and local decision making is important as it allows for flexibility when determining increasing or decreasing in-person contact. So, developing and supporting the infrastructure through areas such as Medicaid allows these processes to be fluid and flexible so local lead agencies can keep the safety of families and providers at the forefront of decision making.

Whether providers are conducting home visits either virtually or face-to-face, all visits must be consistent with family centered, evidence-based practices. This includes delivering services within the families identified routines or activities. The quality of services must continue regardless of the method of services. Through this process programs have needed increased access to professional development and resources. Specifically training and resources for tele-intervention was developed so that providers could better support families using this method. Numerous resources in print and video format have been available on the ECTA Center website (ectacenter.org) and the KITS website (kskits.org)

Providers have also had to develop and provide a new way of explaining services to families. Adapting language to better reflect what service could or would look like during the pandemic has been imperative. Considering safety has become one of the embedded discussions within the other typical discussions with the family. For example, now when providers are creating the joint plan with the family for the next visit, providers and families need to consider the level of emotional ease and safety aspects of each. This discussion could look like conversations about whether the provider/family has the ability to social distance, if they can't social distance in the home what should the next steps be, which could include choosing to meet virtually, meeting outside, or an increased level of personal protection (PPE, masks, shields, or other equipment).

Through this process the state leadership has been collecting new information/data in order to be able to be more responsive to programs. One of the effects on local programs that the state has seen with the pandemic is a considerable drop in referrals. Programs need to have a plan and formalized process for keeping connected with referral sources and community partners to ensure that timely referrals can continue to be made to the tiny-k program during the pandemic. Through that process programs can keep connected with the local community as well as ensure they are receiving appropriate referrals.

Other data points are less apparent. Local tiny-k program will want to consider strategies that ensure staff have the extra support they need as they re-enter homes. This can be anything from availability of PPE to emotional health and safety matters. Considering the emotional safety and support of staff is vital in ensuring quality services and retaining staff. Also, providers themselves will need to verify that they are developing plans and procedures to ensure family choice is included when supporting service decisions. Just as providers emotional safety needs are considered, the family's emotional safety must be considered for home visits as well.

Programs across the state are re-examining all their decisions, policies, and services trying to develop a "new normal". Increased support through professional development, strengthening of the infrastructure, and other local agencies supports will be necessary for tiny-k programs to be able to adapt to a new normal and to thrive in these times.

Submitted by Tammy Wallin (785-764-1980) or email wallint@ku.edu for more information.



Family Service Coordinator Training Highlight

Kansas State School for the Blind (KSSB) is home to quality programs that reach all corners of the state of Kansas. These unique programs provide significant value to the local school districts, families, and students and deserve recognition.

KSSB is an agency that is constantly evolving and growing to meet the needs of students who are blind/visually impaired in Kansas. We see ourselves as a "network of services" that includes both a robust

Field Services (outreach) team to serve students across the state as well as a campus that offers intensive, short-term services for students. The KSSB Field Services program provides specialists across the state that support agencies, school districts and other programs who request support and/or training and resources.

For more information, contact Sabrina McAdoo, smcadoo@kssdb.org or Susan Threinen, sthreinen@kssdb.org.

The purpose of **Assistive Technology for Kansans**: Increase statewide access of assistive technology devices and services to people of all ages and abilities. Kansans of all ages with any type of disability or health condition can request information/referral, evaluation, and demonstration of equipment, technical assistance or training supports by calling 1-800-KAN-DO-IT. Assistive Technology for Kansans has five regional Assistive Technology Access sites that have assistive technology specialists, funding specialists, access to technology devices, and contacts with experts in all areas of technology. Areas of assistive technology covered: computer access devices and software, activities of daily living, assisted listening, communication, education/learning, environmental control, leisure/play, and mobility.

For more information, contact Sheila Simmons at 620-421-8367 or email ssimmons@ku.edu.



Just for Families

Transitions are always hard, but retuning to childcare after being at home for months is especially hard on parents and children alike. The children have gotten used to waking up and spending every day with parents. Planning ahead and putting some strategies in place can make the transition easier.

- Remember this is stressful. When you're stressed, children sense it and become stressed.
- Talk to the director of your center to learn what the procedures are for keeping children safe and healthy.
- Practice getting up and ready for the day at the same time each day prior to the first day.

- Play preschool or childcare center with your child to get the child accustomed to what happens in that space.
- Remember, behavior directly correlates to how your child is feeling.

Submitted by Kim Page (620-421-6550) or email kpage@ku.edu for more information.

Welcome Jenny Brase



Please welcome Jenny Brase, MS ECSE. Jenny has been working with infants, toddlers, preschoolers, families and caregivers for over 20 years. She started her career as a kindergarten teacher after receiving her bachelors in elementary educations from Sterling College. She soon became interested in working with children who have delays and special needs and earned her Masters degree from Emporia State University. Since then has been working with children aged birth through 5 years of age. Her roles have included inclusive special education preschool teacher, itinerant preschool teacher, transition coordinator and infant toddler provider. Jenny is certified in Infant ABC; Attachment and Bio Behavioral Catch-Up, and is currently working on her toddler ABC certification through the University of Delaware. She is also serving on the board for KDEC as the secretary. Jenny belongs to KDEC, CEC and DEC. Jenny and the team she was working with received a best practice award in 2014 for creating and implementing an itinerant ECSE program. This program allowed children to remain in their natural setting while receiving special education services. When not at work Jenny enjoys floating down the river on a kayak, watching her husband and son drag race and hanging out with her two adult sons. Jenny can be contacted at 785-764-4390 or email jennybrase@ku.edu.



ECRC Spotlight on: This is Play: environments and interactions that engage infants and toddlers

This is Play, written by Julia Luckenbill, Aarti Subramaniam and Janet Thompson, is all about slowing down, tuning in and discovering the very purposeful play of infants and toddlers. Addressing considerations like choosing interesting materials, setting up safe and inviting environments, and why

you are the most important element of play for very young children, the authors come alongside to help you: better understand what play means for infants and toddlers, read children's cues and respond to their needs for more challenge, a break from interaction, or a play partner, support children's physical, social and emotional, language, and cognitive development, adapt the way you play with children and what materials you offer based on individual abilities, interests, and needs, look at toddler behavior in new ways and use proven strategies to help children navigate play situations with peers.

Resources like this and others are available and may be borrowed from the KITS Early Childhood Resource Center. Contact Kim Page at resourcecenter@ku.edu or (620 421-6550).

Contact the KITS

Early Childhood Resource Center

(620) 421-6550 ext. 1651

Toll free in Kansas: (800) 362-0390 ext. 1651

Email: resourcecenter@ku.edu.

Our entire catalog is searchable online at [KITS ECRC](http://kskits.org/ecrc/) or <http://kskits.org/ecrc/>

All information retrieved

from: <https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/books/tis-is-play>

Collaborative Calendar of Events

Check the KTIS Collaborative Training Calendar for information on a variety of training event for Kansas early childhood professionals!

DATE	EVENT / LOCATION	SPONSOR / CONTACT / REGISTRATION
9-09-2020	New Coordinator Training	KITS - https://kskits.org
9-17-2020	Coordinator Meeting	KITS - https://kskits.org
9-17-2020	Coaching Facilitator Training	KITS - https://kskits.org
9-25-2020	Coordinator Connections	KITS - https://kskits.org
9-29-2020	Let's Work Together: Building Relations with Families to Support Positive Behavior	KCCTO - https://kccto.org/shop/
10-07-2020	Zero to Three Annual Conference	Zero to Three https://www.zerotothree.org/
10-14-2020	New Coordinator Training	KITS - https://kskits.org
10-19-2020	Coaching Facilitator Training	KITS - https://kskits.org
10-21-2020	Division for Early Childhood's 36th Annual International Conference on Young Children with Disabilities and Their Families	Division for Early Childhood's 35th Annual International Conference http://www.deconference.org/
10-29-2020	Coordinator Meeting	KITS - https://kskits.org

11-04-2020	NAEYC Annual Conference	NAEYC - https://www.naeyc.org/events/annual
11-16-2020	Coaching Facilitator Training	KITS - https://kskits.org
11-18-2020	New Coordinator Training	KITS - https://kskits.org
12-01-2020	Make New Friends: Promoting Friendship and Belonging	Military Families Learning Network - https://militaryfamilieslearningnetwork.org/event/61152/
12-09-2020	New Coordinator Training	KITS - https://kskits.org
12-17-2020	Coordinator Meeting	KITS - https://kskits.org
01-13-2020	New Coordinator Training	KITS - https://kskits.org
01-18-2020	Coaching Facilitator Training	KITS - https://kskits.org
01-22-2020	Coordinator Connections	KITS - https://kskits.org
02-04-2020	Coordinator Meeting	KITS - https://kskits.org
02-10-2020	New Coordinator Training	KITS - https://kskits.org
02-15-2020	Coaching Facilitator Training	KITS - https://kskits.org
02-18-2020	Family Service Coordinator Training	KITS - https://kskits.org
03-04-2020	Coordinator Meeting	KITS - https://kskits.org
03-15-2020	Coaching Facilitator Training	KITS - https://kskits.org
03-18-2020	Family Service Coordinator Training	KITS - https://kskits.org
04-09-2020	Coordinator Connections	KITS - https://kskits.org
04-14-2020	New Coordinator Training	KITS - https://kskits.org
04-19-2020	Coaching Facilitator Training	KITS - https://kskits.org
04-22-2020	Family Service Coordinator Training	KITS - https://kskits.org
05-12-2020	New Coordinator Training (Weather Date)	KITS - https://kskits.org
05-13-2020	Family Service Coordinator Training	KITS - https://kskits.org
05-17-2020	Coaching Facilitator Training	KITS - https://kskits.org
05-20-2020	Coordinator Meeting	KITS - https://kskits.org
06-11-2020	Coaching Facilitator Training	KITS - https://kskits.org