



First Steps

*The Newsletter for
Indiana Early Intervention*



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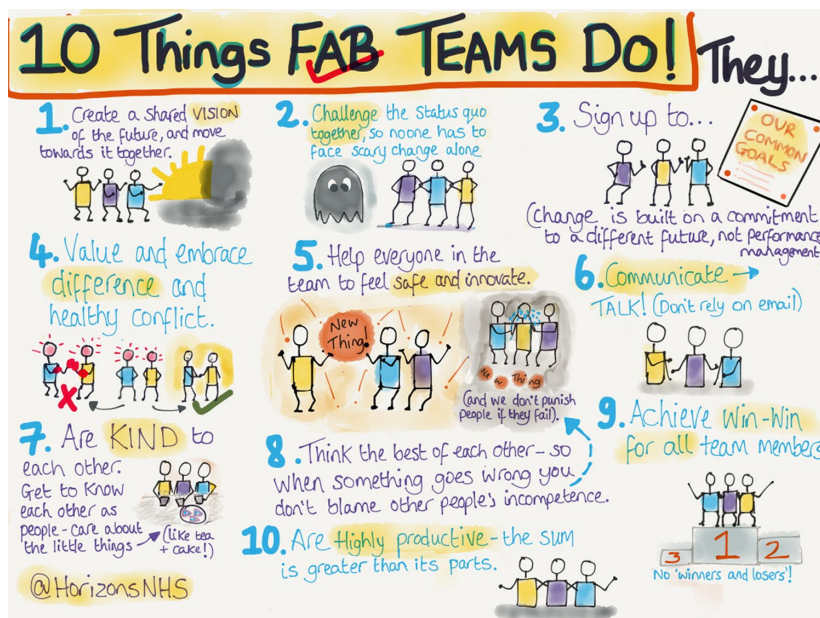
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Letter from Christina

10 things fab teams do

Spring has arrived, and with spring comes new beginnings. What a wonderful opportunity to begin to focus on our First Steps IFSP teams. We have so many possibilities for connecting with our colleagues, parents, caregivers and other professionals to effect change and help children and their families reach positive outcomes. I often think that the accomplishments of the children in our program are a direct reflection of the success of our IFSP teams. It starts with a strong vision for what the family wishes for their child(ren) to achieve, changing or embedding a practice into an existing family routine, everyone making a commitment to work together on the IFSP outcomes, valuing the unique complexities of the families and colleagues with whom we work, and building strong communication lines.



The Secretary of the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA), Dr. Walthall, recently shared Helen Bevan's graphic on "10 Things FAB Teams Do." The essential foundation of functional teams is well-represented here. Let's come together as a united First Steps team and work to improve our collective communication and ability to embrace differences to be the team families deserve and expect.

"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." —Henry Ford

Best, Christina



ICC Update

The Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) members are First Steps stakeholders appointed by the Governor of Indiana. The role of the ICC and its subcommittees is to advise the state First Steps office on the state's early intervention system. We believe that adopting a shared vision and shared goals is essential to working together to improve services and outcomes for the children and families we serve.

All ICC meeting dates and minutes are posted on our website: [http://www.in.gov/fssa/ddrs/3355.htm#Interagency Coordinating Council](http://www.in.gov/fssa/ddrs/3355.htm#Interagency%20Coordinating%20Council).

The next meeting of the ICC is May 9, 2018 from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. EST at:

Choices Coordinated Care Solutions
7941 Castleway Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46250



2018 CONFERENCE

JUNE 14-15, 2018 • BLOOMINGTON, IN

<https://www.iidc.indiana.edu/pages/first-steps-conference-2018>

Conference Registration Is Now Open!

Join your colleagues, network, be inspired!

The conference will be held on June 14-15 at the Monroe Convention Center in Bloomington, Indiana. Registration is only \$75 for this 1½ day conference featuring two national-level keynote speakers, dozens of exciting breakout sessions and plenty of opportunities for networking and resource-gathering. Credentialing points will be available.

Registration

Visit <https://eventmobi.com/fs2018> to learn more. To register, click the “I want to register” tab on the left side of the page. At this time we are holding registration slots for First Steps staff. We will begin expanding our marketing in a few months, so register early!

Exhibitors

Would you like to see your organization represented in the exhibitor hall? Check out the Exhibitor Information and consider joining us for 1½ days of learning, networking and resource-gathering. To become an exhibitor, visit <https://eventmobi.com/fs2018> and click on the “I want to be an exhibitor” tab on the left side of the page. We have a limited number of exhibitor tables available, so don't delay!

Download the EventMobi app and enter the code **FS2018** to use during the conference. It's your one-stop shop for details before and during the event.



 eventmobi

DDRS Updates

Notice of Public Hearing and Comment Period: Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, Part C Early Intervention Program For Infants And Toddlers With Disabilities

The State of Indiana is accepting public comment on drafts of the 2018 Part C State Application and First Steps Policy Manual. The state application and policy manual are on file with the Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services at 402 W. Washington St., Room W453, Indianapolis, IN 46204 and online at <http://www.in.gov/fssa/ddrs/2812.htm>.



Copies of the application and policy manual can be obtained on location at the Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services and are also available for review at First Steps System Point of Entry (SPOE) offices throughout the state. A listing of SPOE locations is available at <http://www.in.gov/fssa/ddrs/4688.htm>.

Interested persons and organizations may comment on the proposed state application and policy manual by submitting comments in writing to the Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services by mail or email. Written comments must be received on or before May 4, 2018. Written comments should include the name, title, and address of the commentator; the specific part of the proposed state application or policy manual on which comments are being made; and the specific actions recommended to the state. Written comments can be sent to the First Steps Early Intervention Program, Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services at 402 W. Washington St., Room W453, Indianapolis, IN 46204, ATTN: FS application, or emailed with subject: FS application, to Meghan.Smith@fssa.in.gov.

Public hearings will also be held at the following times and locations:

Friday, April 6, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. EST, at the Honeywell Center, 275 W. Market St., Wabash, IN 46992

Monday, April 16, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. EST, at the Bedford Public Library, 1323 K. St., Bedford, IN 47421

Tuesday, April 17, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. EST, at the Pike Branch of the Indianapolis Public Library, 6525 Zionsville Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46268

Please contact Meghan Smith at Meghan.Smith@fssa.in.gov if any accommodations are needed. The DDRS is a program of the Indiana Family & Social Services Administration. If you have questions about DDRS programs and services, visit us online at www.DDRS.in.gov.

DDRS—First Steps Indiana Statewide Profile Report

Reporting Period: 01/01-12/31/2017; Run Date: 03/15/2018

I. Population Information

Population (U.S. Census Bureau)	6,376,792
Population Growth Percentage (U.S. Census Bureau)	4.0%

II. Child Enrollment & Referral

	Number of Children	Percentage of Children
One-day Count w/ IFSP—0 to 1 year old	1,384	
One-day Count w/ IFSP—All Children	10,806	
Annual Count of Children w/ IFSP	21,126	
Annual Count of Children Served (regardless of IFSP)	25,609	
Average Age at Referral (months)	14	
New IFSP, 10/01/2017-12/31/2017	2,774	
Children with Referral to IFSP 45+ Days, 10/01/2017-12/31/2017	115	

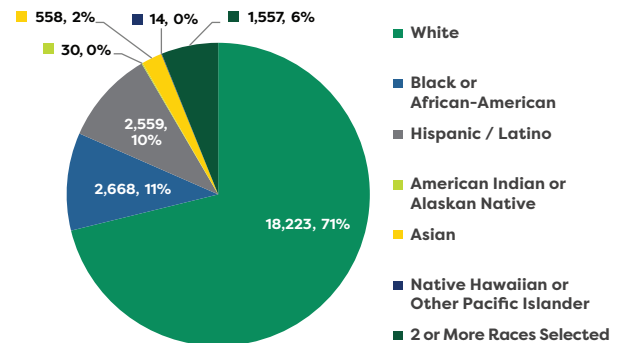
III. Exits

Children Moving to Preschool Special Education	4,500	45%
Children Under 3, Services No Longer Needed	250	3%
Eligible Children Who Declined Services	1,097	11%

IV. Paid Services

Children w/IFSP Served Primarily in the Natural Environment	20,118	95%
Total Amount Paid on Behalf of Children Served	\$42,850,800.79	
Average Paid on Behalf of Each Child Served	\$1,673.27	

V. Race Information



VI. Children Receiving Each Service Type

Service Type	Number of Children Served	Percent Receiving Service	Service Type	Number of Children Served	Percent Receiving Service
Assistive Technology	191	1%	Occupational Therapy	13,569	53%
Audiology	1,030	4%	Other Services	55	0%
Developmental Therapy	13,309	52%	Physical Therapy	12,826	50%
Health Services	0	0%	Psychology	148	1%
Interpreter Services	304	1%	Social Work	38	0%
Medical	0	0%	Speech Therapy	18,051	70%
Nursing	0	0%	Vision	0	0%
Nutrition	391	2%			

Source: First SideHatch Database

Training Central and Credentialing Update

Visit Training Central to access a variety of posted online trainings

Go to <http://partnershipsforearlylearners.org/get-involved/providers/training-central/> and register for an account. When registering, you will use the category “early intervention provider.” All trainings are free of charge and provide users with a certificate upon training completion. Certificates for all completed trainings are stored in each user’s account under “My Certificates.” First Steps personnel must keep these certificates in their personal training records for five years.

If you have questions, please contact the Training Central Help Desk at tcsupport@earlylearningindiana.org or 1-800-299-1627 and choose option 5.

New Provider Required Orientation Training Information

Direct Service Provider Trainings (DSP)

To register for the following trainings, visit this link: <https://fs-aeps-dsp-sc.weebly.com/>

DSP 102 and 103

SC 102 and 103

AEPS Part 2

First Steps Core Training (FSCT)

First Steps Core Trainings and orientation trainings are available on the First Steps website or at <http://www.eikids.com/in/matrix/UnifiedTraining.asp>. Once you have completed the training video/presentation, you must complete the competency assessment. A score of 80% or higher is required to pass the assessment.

NEW INFORMATION! The assessments have now been posted to Qualtrics. Just take the included quiz and your score is automatically graded, recorded and a confirmation email sent immediately thereafter!

Please maintain a copy of the email as supporting documentation of completing the training. First Steps personnel are responsible for maintaining their own training records.



The Newsletter Quiz can be found by clicking on the following link:

https://iu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0fxJqJi5JzviQJ

YOU HAVE UNTIL JUNE 15, 2018, TO COMPLETE THE QUIZ AND EARN .2 POINTS

Participating on Your Child's Team

Helpful guide to share with families from ECTA Center

Early childhood staff that work with your family work as a team. YOU are an important member of this team. You are the most knowledgeable person about your child, your family, and what you want to see happen to help your child learn and grow. As a team member, it is important to share information about your child during your child's evaluation and assessment and to identify what you want to work on with your child. Helping to develop your child's intervention plan—Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) or Individualized Education Plan (IEP)—is also important. Your interactions with other team members provide opportunities to try out ideas, make suggestions, and provide feedback about what is or is not working. This practice guide includes different things that can help you be involved actively and meaningfully with other team members.

Learning Guide: Families Becoming Active Team Members

- At first, you might not know the other members of your child/family early intervention team, and it might feel awkward to participate in meetings. It takes time to build trusting relationships, and, over time, everyone on the team will become more comfortable with one another.
- Always feel free to ask team members about their roles, professional training, and what they like about working with young children. Besides getting to know them better, you'll learn how team members may be most helpful to you and your child.
- Avoid information overload! You will be getting lots of verbal and written information. Feel free to ask other team members about words or terms you may not understand. This is a new journey for your family.
- It is important that you understand your child and family's Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) or Individualized Education Program (IEP) and other documents and information you receive from the team. If you need more information to understand what other team members are saying, do not hesitate to ask them to explain it to you.
- Whenever possible, suggest times to meet with other team members that work best for you and your child. Ask about the purpose of the meeting or visit so you can be prepared to provide input or ask questions. If you are requesting a meeting or visit, share your reasons so others will be prepared as well.
- Your family is the final decision maker on what goals and activities are the focus of your child's intervention. Other team members are available to assist you as you learn new strategies and build confidence in helping your child successfully participate in everyday activities and learn and grow.

A Quick Peek

Karen, an early intervention provider, arrives at a home visit and begins to address the IFSP goal on assisting two-year-old Amelia to use single words. Marcy, her mom, says it's nice to have a "conversation" with Amelia, but she just wishes Amelia wouldn't shriek at mealtime and would eat more varied foods.

Marcy tells Karen the screaming at mealtimes is a serious problem, and she's worrying whether Amelia is even getting enough food as she only wants pureed baby food. Together they talk

about what may be happening. Marcy says it's close to lunch time and asks Karen to stay and observe her trying to feed Amelia. After several minutes, Karen suggests they ask the team's speech and occupational therapists to come assess Amelia to see if there are any physical reasons for her strong reaction to some foods. And they could also advise Marcy how she might help Amelia try new foods. Marcy says that is a good idea. Karen thanks Marcy for speaking up about these new concerns saying this is why Marcy is the most important member of Amelia's team!

You'll know the practice is working if ...

- You feel your questions and concerns are answered to your satisfaction.
- You are comfortable making suggestions and providing your input.
- You feel supported in the decisions you make.

For more information and activities about participating fully on your child and family early intervention team, visit: <http://www.parentcenterhub.org/parent-participation-ei/>.

To print the original PDF of this Family Practice Guide, visit <http://ectacenter.org/decrp/type-pgfamily.asp>.

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<http://www.ectacenter.org/decrp/>

IN Best Practice

We would like to include ideas from First Steps providers in upcoming newsletters!

If you have an idea that works well with families or an article to share, please submit to:

firststepswb.fssa@fssa.in.gov



Institute for Strengthening Families

2018 Spring Conference

Announcing Open Registration!

April 17, 2018—One Day Event!



EVENT CENTRE

502 East Event Centre
502 E. Carmel Drive
Carmel, Indiana 46032

Featured Keynote Speakers



Dr. Elesia Hines, PsyD, HSPP
Clinical Psychologist
Riley Child Development Center



Stephan Viehweg, LCSW, ACSW
Associate Director
Riley Child Development Center

Space is limited.

Registration cost is \$20 through April 1. Registration cost from April 2 through April 6 is \$30. Registration closes after April 6.

To register, visit www.DCS.in.gov or contact us at isfc@mail.com



Worth
1,000
words

8th Annual
HANDS in Autism[®]
Art Expo
April 26-27, Indianapolis, IN

"Unique, Creative, Talented, Complex, Determined, Amazing"
by Seamas, winner of the 2018 Banner Competition

April 26, 2018, 6:30-8 p.m.
April 27, 2018, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Celebrate Autism Awareness Month at the 8th Annual HANDS in Autism[®] Art Expo!



Meet the featured artists during the "An Evening of the Arts" event from 6:30-8 p.m. on **April 26** or visit the expo on **April 27** from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.



The Annual Art Expo is designed to provide a glimpse into the perspectives of individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) who utilize art as a means of expression given some of the social and communicative challenges that ASD presents.

Artists with ASD are encouraged to submit artwork of any medium to be displayed at the event using the link below. Artists, classrooms, teams, community groups, and clubs are also invited to submit a special collaborative piece to celebrate autism! For more details about community submissions, email hands@iupui.edu.



This event is free and open to the public.

To help us anticipate attendance, please RSVP using the link below!

Art submission:

tinyurl.com/2018ArtExpoSubmission

Opening event RSVP:

tinyurl.com/2018ArtExpoRSVP



**The 8th Annual HANDS in Autism[®] Art Expo is sponsored by the
HANDS in Autism[®] Interdisciplinary Training & Resource Center**

HANDSinAutism.iupui.edu/artexpo.html | hands@iupui.edu | 317.274.2675



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**Division of Disability and
Rehabilitative Services**

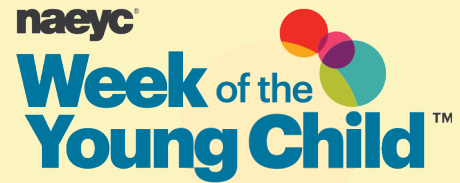
**Indiana Family and Social Services
Administration**

Bureau of Child Development Services
402 W. Washington Street, W453
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Please send your suggestions and feedback
to FirstStepsweb.fssa@fssa.in.gov.

Week of the Young Child 2018

The Week of the Young Child™ is an annual celebration hosted by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) celebrating early learning, young children, their teachers and families. This year's event is April 16–20, 2018!



We're so excited for a week-long celebration of our youngest learners! Start planning your celebration today with event ideas and activities at <https://www.naeyc.org/events/woyc/overview>.

Awareness Day 2018

Join us on Thursday, May 10, for Awareness Day 2018! Each year National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day seeks to raise awareness about the importance of children's mental health and show that positive mental health is essential to a child's healthy development.



Awareness Day 2018: Partnering for Health and Hope Following Trauma will focus on the importance of an integrated approach to caring for the mental health needs of children, youth and young adults who have experienced trauma, as well as their families. More than 1,100 communities and 160 national collaborating organizations and federal programs will organize local Awareness Day activities and events around the country.

Visit <https://www.samhsa.gov/children/awareness-day> to learn how you and your community can get involved! Scroll down to Awareness Day 2018 and click on Awareness Day 2018.