



2021 Virtual *Early On*[®] Michigan Conference
**Strong Foundations for the Future of
Early Intervention**



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Welcome

Michigan Department of Education

Dear *Early On* Personnel:

Greetings! The Michigan Department of Education, along with our collaborative partners, is pleased to offer the 2021 Virtual *Early On* Conference: *Strong Foundations for the Future of Early Intervention*.

This virtual conference will offer participants exciting learning opportunities that will renew and expand upon current practices, including content to build new strategies for supporting families with infants and toddlers in *Early On*. It builds upon Goal 1 of the state's Strategic Education Plan to "Expand early childhood learning opportunities."

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your work with families at such an important time in the lives of their young children – we know that intervening in the earliest years really makes a difference.

Enjoy your 2021 conference!

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael F. Rice, *State Superintendent*

Michigan Department of Education

Clinton County RESA Office of Innovative Projects (CCRESA OIP)

Early On Training and Technical Assistance (EOT&TA) is an Innovative Project of Clinton County Regional Education Service Agency (CCRESA), funded by the Michigan Department of Education through Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, to support and prepare personnel to work with infants and toddlers who are eligible for services through *Early On* Michigan and their families. EOT&TA provides information and training related to *Early On* processes, evidence-based family-centered practices and early intervention strategies, child development, state policy, and federal regulations.

This year's conference, *Strong Foundations for the Future of Early Intervention*, offers opportunities for early intervention personnel to build upon the foundation of their practices in areas including: writing functional IFSP outcomes, early literacy, the power of play, coaching as an interactive style, Routines-Based Model, early intervention evidence-based practices, and much more. A variety of sessions, in depth and overview, are offered that meet the needs of providers, administrators, faculty, and parents. This year we are pleased to feature multiple national and state experts. The 2021 virtual conference begins with a 2.5-hour pre-conference featuring Robin McWilliam, ending with a three-hour in-depth session with M'Lisa Shelden and Dathan Rush. We have ten amazing offerings in between.

Our talented Conference Coordinators are Criss Hickey and Jean Wassenaar. Join us and dig in to develop your *Strong Foundations for the Future of Early Intervention*!

Enjoy the conference!

Christy Callahan, Director

CCRESA Office of Innovative Projects

Agenda

Wednesday, November 10, 2021

Pre-Conference

12:30PM - 1:00PM

Welcome and Greetings

Christine Callahan, MA, Director, CCRESA Office of Innovative Projects
Janet Timbs, Ed.S., Manager, Birth to Five Early Childhood Special Education
Noel Kely, Ph.D., Director, Office of Great Start/Early Childhood Development and Family Education

1:00PM - 3:30PM

[Centering Assessment and Intervention Around Routines](#)

Robin McWilliam, Ph.D., Professor and Director, University of Alabama Evidence-based International Early Intervention Office

Thursday, November 11, 2021

Conference Schedule

12:30PM - 12:40PM

Welcome and Updates

Early On Training and Technical Assistance, CCRESA Office of Innovative Projects

12:45PM - 2:00PM

[Seminar/Session 1 Breakouts](#)

2:15PM - 3:30PM

[Seminar/Session 2 Breakouts](#)

Friday, November 12, 2021

Post-Conference Schedule

12:30PM - 3:30PM

[Coaching in Early Childhood](#)

Dathan Rush, Ed.D., CCC-SLP, Director, Family, Infant and Preschool Program (FIPP) in Morganton, North Carolina
M'Lisa L. Shelden, Ph.D., PT, Wichita State University in Wichita, Kansas



Exciting Offer From Brookes Publishing

We are excited to announce that Brookes Publishing is offering a 10 percent discount and free shipping on all their products for *Early On* Michigan personnel! Check out their website at <https://brookespublishing.com>! Use discount code **MIEI21** when ordering. This discount is available through December 31, 2021.

Michigan Department of Education Greetings

Wednesday, 12:30PM - 1:00PM

Janet Timbs, *Ed.S., Manager, Birth to Five Early Childhood Special Education*

Noel Kelty, *Ph.D., Director, Office of Great Start/Early Childhood Development and Family Education*

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE), Office of Great Start/Early Childhood Development and Family Education, is the state's lead agency for *Early On* Michigan. The office is responsible for administering Part C of IDEA. Janet and Noel will provide participants with timely federal and state updates, and discuss the *Early On* system and its intersection with the MDE's top priorities.



Pre-Conference

Wednesday, 1:00PM - 3:30PM

PRE A Centering Assessment and Intervention Around Routines

Robin McWilliam, *Ph.D., Professor and Director, University of Alabama Evidence-based International Early Intervention Office*

The backbone of family life and children's functioning is daily, sometimes weekly, routines. This workshop will show how a simple concept of engagement, independence, and social relationships in each of a child's routines can guide our selection of functional outcomes and, more importantly, our "family consultation" to build caregiver capacity. This concept maximizes the amount of intervention a child receives. The Routines-Based Model also promotes a primary-service-provider approach to ensure a coherent, relationship-focused service delivery model, promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in early intervention.



Welcome and Updates

Thursday, 12:30PM - 12:40PM

Early On Training and Technical Assistance, CCRESA Office of Innovative Projects

Seminar/Session 1 Breakouts

Thursday, 12:45PM - 2:00PM

Registration Note: Seminars are two sessions, back-to-back. Each seminar has a Part 1 and a Part 2 and provides 2.5 hours of content. Participants who register for a Seminar Part 1 are required to register for Part 2 as well. For example, participants interested in Seminar 1A-2A will need to register for 1A and 2A. Sessions are 1.25 hours long.

1A Fundamentals of Writing Meaningful IFSP Outcomes - (Seminar Part 1 of 2)

Dana Childress, *Ph.D., Partnership for People with Disabilities at Virginia Commonwealth University*

Whether you have been writing IFSP outcomes for five minutes or five years, it can be helpful to take some time to review the fundamentals and reflect on your work. In this seminar, we will review key ideas about what well-written outcomes are and are not and ground ourselves in a simple formula for writing outcomes (who, what, where, how). We will also use seven fundamentals of writing individualized, functional, and meaningful IFSP outcomes to guide our thinking as we consider real-life stories, share ideas and tips, critique examples, and practice writing outcomes that are meaningful to all team members, especially families.

1B Taking the “Essential Instructional Practices in Language and Emergent Literacy: Birth to Age 3” From Understanding to ACTION! - (Seminar Part 1 of 2)

Susan Townsend, MA, Literacy Project Director, and Co-Chair, Early Literacy Task Force, Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators

Sean LaRosa, Ed.S., Assistant Superintendent for Early Learning, Livingston ESA, and Co-Chair, General Education Leadership Network (GELN) Early Literacy Task Force

This presentation will move participants to become familiar with the “Essential Instructional Practices in Language and Emergent Literacy: Birth to Age 3” practitioner and parent documents. They will explore, make connections to their work, and identify practical applications.

1C The What, Why, and How of Implementation Science: Making Real World Lasting Change in Early Intervention - (Seminar Part 1 of 2)

Sondra Stegenga, Ph.D., MS, OTR/L, Assistant Professor, Department of Special Education, University of Utah

Do you have a desire to make long lasting change with families, children, and communities? Have you ever wondered why an exciting new strategy, tool, or intervention did not work? Have you ever felt that money was wasted on large scale training that did not sustain in practice over the years? If yes, this session is for you! The field of implementation science (IS) helps to understand critical factors that lead to improved outcomes and sustainable practices. However, it can be hard knowing where to start with IS. This seminar will provide concrete tools for using IS to promote systems change and practice improvement in early intervention. Theoretical foundations for IS, real-world examples, recent research, resources for improving practices, and time for practice/application will be provided.

1D The Power of Play in a High-Tech World - (Seminar Part 1 of 2)

Cari Ebert, MS, CCC-SLP, Cari Ebert Seminars

It is critical for pediatric therapists, early childhood educators, and parents to understand and appreciate the connection between brain development and play, especially in young children who present with developmental delays. This seminar will provide an evidence-based approach to working with young children and their families by promoting cognitive, language, sensorimotor, and social-emotional development through child-directed, adult-guided play experiences. Participants will gain more insight into how play has changed over the years as a result of technology, along with a rationale for the benefits of screen-free play for young children with developing brains and bodies.

1E Team Up! Supporting the Unique Needs of Your Infants and Toddlers Who Have Blind/Visual Impairment (BVI)

Johanna Brutvan, MA Ed, Education Consultant, Michigan Department of Education-Low Incidence Outreach (MDE-LIO)

Early intervention for infants and toddlers who have Blind/Visual Impairment (BVI) is essential. Hear the Michigan Department of Education-Low Incidence Outreach (MDE-LIO) outline the unique needs of infants and toddlers who are BVI and gain the insight, tools, and resources you need to support the families you serve!

1F The Michigan Personas: New Tools for Faculty and Professional Development Providers

Camille Catlett, MA, Senior Technical Assistance Specialist, Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute
Danielle Savory-Seggerson, MA, Professor, Lansing Community College
Kari Holmberg, MA, CCRESA Office Of Innovative Projects
LaShorge Shaffer, Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of Michigan Dearborn

Presenters will introduce the new Michigan personas and highlight ways in which they may be used in teaching, coaching, mentoring, supervision, and other forms of professional development (PD). They will illustrate how the personas may be used to help learners become more familiar with and use evidence-based practices through demonstrations. Participants will leave with access to the Michigan personas as well as the companion materials (evidence sources, sample questions and prompts) that were developed for each persona. This session is designed for faculty members and PD providers, but anyone is welcome!

1G Shaking It up! Writing Actual Family-Centered Goals as Told by Mom

Sarah Carlson, BA, Family Consultant, Family Voices of North Dakota

Journey along with Sarah, a mother to a baby with complex medical needs as she takes on re-writing her son's IFSP. Not only did she author the document, it ended up centering on the very values she was after: not focusing on her son's deficits, but celebrating the entire family's growth through objectives while meeting all state and federal requirements. Prepare to see a new perspective on the strength-based approach to support the lives of the families we all serve.



Seminar/Session 2 Breakouts

Thursday, 2:15PM - 3:30PM

2A Fundamentals of Writing Meaningful IFSP Outcomes - (Seminar Part 2 of 2)

Dana Childress, Ph.D., Partnership for People with Disabilities at Virginia Commonwealth University

If you registered for 1A, please register for this session as well.

2B Taking the “Essential Instructional Practices in Language and Emergent Literacy: Birth to Age 3” From Understanding to ACTION! - (Seminar Part 2 of 2)

Susan Townsend, MA, Literacy Project Director, and Co-Chair, Early Literacy Task Force, Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators

Sean LaRosa, Ed.S., Assistant Superintendent for Early Learning, Livingston ESA, and Co-Chair, General Education Leadership Network (GELN) Early Literacy Task Force

If you registered for 1B, please register for this session as well.

2C The What, Why, and How of Implementation Science: Making Real World Lasting Change in Early Intervention - (Seminar Part 2 of 2)

Sondra Stegenga, *Ph.D., MS, OTR/L, Assistant Professor, Department of Special Education, University of Utah*

If you registered for 1C, please register for this session as well.

2D The Power of Play in a High-Tech World - (Seminar Part 2 of 2)

Cari Ebert, *MS, CCC-SLP, Cari Ebert Seminars*

If you registered for 1D, please register for this session as well.

2E Compassionate Care Practices Within Caregiver Coaching

Sophia D'Agostino, *Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Special Education, Utah State University*

This presentation explores the reported use, perceptions, and confidence in compassionate care practices within caregiver coaching from the perspectives of Michigan early intervention providers and the caregivers they coach. Compassionate care encompasses therapeutic relationship practices including listening, collaboration, empathy, and compassion, which have been found to be correlated to a number of important outcome variables (e.g., satisfaction, adherence to treatment, and improved clinical outcomes). The early intervention field values family-centered practices (Division for Early Childhood, 2014) and promotes the use of coaching models, yet current recommendations do not explicitly encompass compassionate care practices. During this presentation, results from a mixed-methods study funded by the *Early On* Faculty Grant will be shared and recommendations for preparation and practice will be discussed along with implications for the field. The target audience is early intervention providers and *Early On* administrators. Participants will gain knowledge of compassionate care practices and how they can be used to enhance caregiver coaching sessions. They will also be given a checklist of compassionate care practices within caregiver coaching that they can use as a self-assessment tool.

2F Agree to Disagree: Listening for Family Resistance to Foster Shared Decisions

Christine Hancock, *Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Wayne State University*

Collaborative decision-making by early educators and families is essential to partnerships. Reaching consensus requires recognizing and addressing disagreement. Yet families may communicate disagreement in subtle ways missed by early educators. We will explore research-based strategies early educators can use to listen for and respond to parental resistance. The target audience for this session is *Early On* practitioners who regularly engage with families, particularly in the context of home visiting.

2G Michigan Mandatory Special Education Birth to Three Eligibility Guidance

Jorri Novak, *MA, CCC-SLP, Early Intervention PD Consultant, CCRESA Office of Innovative Projects*

Beth Rice, *MAEd, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education Consultant, Michigan Department of Education, Low Incidence Outreach (MDE LIO)*

This session will provide an overview of the current Michigan Mandatory Special Education Birth to Three Eligibility Guidance documents developed by the Michigan Department of Education Offices of Special Education and Great Start/Early Childhood Development and Family Education with the assistance of stakeholder and field perspectives and input.

3A Coaching in Early Childhood

Dathan Rush, Ed.D., CCC-SLP, Director, Family, Infant and Preschool Program (FIPP) in Morganton, North Carolina

M’Lisa L. Shelden, Ph.D., PT, Wichita State University in Wichita, Kansas



This awareness-level webinar will provide the background and rationale for using a coaching interaction style to build the capacity of parents, teachers, and other care providers to promote child learning within the context of everyday routines and activities. The presenters will share the evidence-based characteristics of coaching practices and discuss strategies that can be used by all early intervention practitioners from a variety of backgrounds (service coordination, education, occupational therapy, physical therapy, special education, and speech-language pathology).

Continuing Education Credits

State Continuing Education Clock Hours

SCECHs (State Continuing Education Clock Hours) are available for all sessions with an opportunity to earn up to 8 SCECHs for the entire conference.

Social Work Contact Hours (SWCH)

This Course Title: 2021 Virtual Early On Conference: Strong Foundations for the Future of Early Intervention is approved by the NASW-Michigan Social Work Continuing Education Collaborative.

CE Hours approved: 8.5

Conference Registration Information

Conference Fees by November 1, 2021:

- Full conference: \$50.00
- Single day: \$20.00
- Full conference Student/LICC Parent: \$40.00
- Single day Student/LICC Parent: \$15.00

Conference Fees after November 1, 2021:

- Full conference: \$75.00
- Single day: \$30.00
- Full conference Student/LICC Parent: \$65.00
- Single day Student/LICC Parent: \$20.00

Applying for Discounted Rates

Students who wish to receive the discounted rate must provide documentation on college/university letterhead indicating their enrollment at the college or university. Local interagency coordinating council (LICC) parents who wish to receive the discounted rate must provide documentation on ISD/agency letterhead indicating their current involvement as an LICC parent. Students and parents who wish to receive the discounted rate should register online first and then send requests for discounted rates and documentation to Dan Muliett at Muliett_D@ccresa.org or fax it to 517-668-0446.

Registration Procedures

Please register online at eotta.ccresa.org/Event.php?id=4207.

Please remit payment online by credit card or send a check or purchase order within seven days to: CCRESA OIP, 240 S. Bridge St., Suite 250, DeWitt, MI 48820.

Please direct registration questions to eotweb@edzone.net or call 866-334-5437.

Accessibility Accommodations

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the conference should contact EOT&TA at 866-334-5437 at least ten days in advance to request visual, hearing, and other assistance. Individuals may also indicate these needs in their online registration form.

Connecting to the Virtual *Early On* Conference

This conference is a web-based event. Some browsers will need a plug-in in order to view the content. Please test your connection prior to the start of the conference to ensure that you are prepared!

For instructions on how to test your browser's ability to connect visit:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/115002262083-Joining-a-test-meeting>

If you have problems connecting to the conference, please call 866-334-5437.

Save the Date for the 2022 *Early On* Conference

The Grand Traverse Resort

Acme, Michigan

November 15-17, 2022

