



Early Support  
for Infants  
and Toddlers



## Washington State Part C System Improvement Project

### August 2010 Update

#### Local and National Meetings

The end of July and first week of August were busy ones for ESIT staff and partners. The State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) met on July 28 and included a full update on the System Improvement Project. A portion of the system improvement work involves embedding a relationship-based approach in our early intervention system to better meet the social-emotional and mental health needs of the children and families we serve. This work was launched with the SICC via a presentation on [Babies, Brains and Relationships: Considering Social-Emotional & Mental Health Needs in Early Intervention](#).

Additionally, several ESIT staff members, consultants and parent partners participated in multiple back-to-back meetings in Washington, DC. The federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) combined its three annual meetings – the National Parent Center Conference, the National Early Childhood Conference, and the OSEP Leadership Conference – into one [Mega-Conference](#): Collaboration to Achieve Success Cradle to Career.

Washington's system improvement progress and other federal ARRA-funded work were presented in multiple venues during the mega-conference. This included: [WA's Steps for Integrating Child Outcome Measurement with the IFSP Process](#); [Technical Assistance Packaging to Practice](#); and, [Innovative Uses of ARRA Funds: How to Avoid the Funding Cliff and Improve Outcomes for Infants, Toddlers, Children and Youth with Disabilities](#).

Local lead agency meetings were held this month in Burien on August 18 and in Yakima on August 24 with time spent answering questions around system improvement work. Others are encouraged to bring project questions and concerns to the next local lead agency meetings November 17 in Chehalis and November 23 in Moses Lake.

Following the August 18 meeting, the ESIT Statewide Training and Technical Assistance Cadre came together for a kickoff meeting on coordinated training planning. More than 20 people attended this meeting and were joined by our University of North Carolina partners on the phone. We anticipate that improved coordination at this level will lead to improved training

experiences for all stakeholders. Monthly calls are planned and a face-to-face meeting with UNC partners this fall.

Thanks to a strong response to the online survey, the mission and principles workgroup met, processed feedback, and submitted a final suggested product to be reviewed by ESIT and DEL in September and the SICC in October. Rollout activities on the new mission and principles will occur later this fall.

The Individualized Family Service Plan – Process Document (IFSP-PD) field test launched on August 18. Thank you to more than 20 volunteers who will spend September working through this new approach to IFSP development. Their willingness try this new approach with families is critical to ensuring what comes to the entire field for review in October has most of the basic kinks smoothed over. We are excited about the ways in which this new approach should both facilitate best practice and the development of truly functional outcomes for children and families.

Finally, more work on procedural safeguards material was conducted in August. Please save December 8 from 9 to 11 a.m. for a webinar on the new forms and accompanying guide.