

# ILLINOIS EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCES

## Early CHOICES

**Mission:** The Early CHOICES Preschool LRE Initiative promotes increasing high quality inclusive education for each and every preschool aged child. Early CHOICES accomplishes this through:

- Increasing the number of children receiving services in general education.
- Providing technical assistance and professional development to families and professionals.
- Collaborating with other Illinois early childhood technical assistance projects.

**Funding Source:** Part B 619/Discretionary-Illinois State Board of Education

**Trainings:** Face-to-face and webinar

**Age:** Preschool

**Website:** [www.eclre.org](http://www.eclre.org)

## Early Childhood Professional Learning (ECPL)

**Mission:** The ECPL goal is to provide free professional learning and resources that support the Illinois State Board of Education funded programs in implementing evidence based practices that improve outcomes for young children and their families.

**Funding Source:** Early Childhood Block Grant-Illinois State Board of Education

**Trainings:** Face-to-face, webinar, technical assistance, coaching

**Age:** Birth to age five

**Website:** <http://www.eclearningil.org/>

## Early Intervention (EI) Clearinghouse

**Mission:** The EI Clearinghouse identifies and collects research-based and best-practice early intervention information to share with families.

**Funding Source:** Part C/ Illinois Department of Human Services Bureau of Early Intervention

**Trainings:** Family resources, lending library, resource guides, multimedia

**Age:** Families of children birth to age three

**Website:** <http://eiclearinghouse.org/>

### Early Intervention Training Program (EITP)

**Mission:** The EITP works to enhance the knowledge and skills of service coordinators, early interventionists, and other stakeholders through professional development opportunities that are reflective of the key features of high quality professional development. EITP designs and delivers professional development activities to strengthen and sustain Illinois' early intervention workforce to provide meaningful outcomes for the children and families they serve. The *Principles of Early Intervention* are the foundation for all EITP activities including the objectives and strategies that the EITP strives to achieve.

**Funding Source:** Part C/ Illinois Department of Human Services Bureau of Early Intervention

**Trainings:** Face to face, online self-paced, webinar and blended format

**Age:** birth to age three

**Website:** <https://eitp.education.illinois.edu/>

### Gateways

**Mission:** Gateways to Opportunity is a statewide professional development support system designed to provide guidance, encouragement, and recognition to individuals and programs serving children, youth, and families.

**Funding Source:** Illinois Department of Human Services Bureau of Child Care and Development, the McCormick Foundation, and Grand Victoria Foundation.

**Trainings:** Face-to-face training, online learning

**Age:** Young Children

**Website:** <http://www.ilgateways.com/training-center>

### Illinois Head Start Association (IHSA)

**Mission:** IHSA mobilizes and strengthens its membership by creating a passion for leadership and advocacy in the interest of our most vulnerable children and families.

**Funding Source:** Administration for Children and Families (ACF) in the Department of Health and Human Services

**Trainings:** Face-to-face, technical assistance, webinar, training modules, resource library

**Age:** Birth to age five

**Website:** <http://ilheadstart.org/>

## Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map (IECAM)

**Mission:** The Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map (IECAM) is intended

1. to assist policy makers and legislators in allocating resources for early care and education programs,
2. to make public resource allocation transparent by showing the changes in funding of services from year to year, and
3. to provide a one-stop source for early learning and demographic data.

They provide information on existing services, the demographics of young children and their families, and state resources that serve young children.

**Funding Source:** Illinois State Board of Education and Department of Human Services

**Trainings:** Webinars on using the data, demonstrations on the website, and trainings by request

**Age:** Birth through age five

**Website:** <https://iecam.illinois.edu>

## Illinois Early Learning Project (IELP)

**Mission:** Serves as a source for evidence-based, reliable information on early care and education for parents, caregivers, and teachers of young children in Illinois.

**Funding Source:** Illinois State Board of Education

**Trainings:** Tip sheets, training videos, lesson planning resources, resources, podcasts, and a variety of other materials all centered around using the Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards (IELDS).

**Age:** Birth through age five

**Website:** <https://illinoisearlylearning.org/>

## ILLINOIS STAR NET

**Mission:** Illinois STAR NET provides a variety of opportunities for personal and professional growth for those who touch the lives of young children, with an emphasis on children with special needs. STAR NET supports family-centered, researched and effective practices in early childhood education and care.

**Funding Source:** Part B 619/Discretionary-Illinois State Board of Education

**Trainings:** Face-to-face, webinar, and technical assistance

**Age:** Birth through age eight

**Website:** [www.starnet.org](http://www.starnet.org)

## Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS)

**Mission:** KIDS is an observational tool designed to help teachers, administrators, families and policymakers better understand the developmental readiness of children entering kindergarten. KIDS is core to the Illinois State Board of Education's (ISBE) goal that every child in Illinois deserves to attend a school wherein all kindergarteners are assessed for readiness.

**Funding Source:** Early Childhood Block Grant-Illinois State Board of Education

**Trainings:**

- Individualized Coaching at the district, school and teacher levels;
- Initial KIDS orientation and implementation trainings for teachers; refresher trainings;
- District Administrative trainings for Building Principals and Assistant Principals and other Administrators
- KIDS Data Use Workshops
- Trainings on Observation-based Assessment and Documenting for KIDS

**Age:** Kindergarten

**Website:** <https://www.isbe.net/kids>

## Partner Plan Act

**Mission:** Partner Plan Act website is a statewide resource that provides local early childhood collaboration leaders with information about community systems and how to collaborate locally to coordinate early childhood development services. The resources and information are for organizations and individuals interested in supporting or building new local collaborations aimed at improving early childhood systems and programs in their community.

**Funding Source:** Illinois State Board of Education

**Trainings:** Blogs, in-person trainings, toolkits, webinars, training events, videos

**Age:** Community systems development for birth to age five

**Website:** <http://partnerplanact.org/>

## The Child Find Project of Illinois

**Mission:** The Child Find Project provides free public awareness services as part of the comprehensive Child Find system. The goal of the Child Find Project is to educate the public about the importance of early intervention and early childhood special education services for eligible children as early as possible in their development. The Child Find Project develops and disseminates informational education materials, and resource and service information to Illinois school districts, early intervention providers, health care providers, families, child care providers, educators, families and the general public. Through the distribution of this educational material, the Child Find Project assists professionals with meeting Child Find mandates as required by IDEA.

**Funding Source:** Part B 619/Discretionary-Illinois State Board of Education

**Trainings:** Resources and materials

**Age:** Birth to age five

**Website:** <http://www.childfind-idea-il.us/>

## The Ounce-Prevention Initiative

**Mission:** The Ounce provides technical assistance and consultation for more than 40 partner agencies in Illinois. They help organizations build capacity to successfully operate a home visiting, doula, or Early Head Start/Head Start programs. We emphasize the importance of full implementation of program models and create solutions to meet the ongoing challenges of operations, staffing, supervision, and funding.

The Ounce is supporting instructional leaders in Illinois' school- and center-based early learning programs as they work to improve their standing in the state's ExceleRate system.

**Funding Source:** ISBE, IDHS, CPS, MIECHV Early Childhood Block Grant-Illinois State Board of Education

**Trainings:** Face-to-Face Training, Webinar, On-Line Learning, Learning Communities, technical assistance, coaching, etc.

**Age:** Birth to age 5 years

**Website:** <https://www.theounce.org/what-we-do/professional-development/>