

ILLINOIS EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCES

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. The distribution of this educational material enables the Child Find Project to assist 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 5

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

Early CHOICES

Mission: Early CHOICES is an inclusion initiative of the Illinois State Board of Education. It promotes high-quality inclusive early care and education for each and every child birth to age 5. The goal is to increase the number of children with disabilities who receive specialized services in regular early care and education settings.

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

Trainings: Face-to-face and webinar

Age: Preschool

Website: www.eclre.org

Early Childhood Professional Learning

Mission: The goal of Early Childhood Professional Learning is to provide free professional learning and resources that support ISBE-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: 3 through 5

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

Early Intervention Clearinghouse

Mission: The Early Intervention 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 (IDHS) Bureau of Early Intervention

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

Age: Families of children birth to age 3

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

Early Intervention Training Program

Mission: The Early Intervention Training Program (EITP) works to enhance the knowledge and skills of service coordinators, early interventionists, and other stakeholders through professional development opportunities that reflect 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/IDHS Bureau of Early Intervention

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

Age: Birth to age 3

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

Gateways to Opportunity

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: IDHS 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

Mission: The Illinois Head Start Association 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 in IDHS

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

Age: Birth to age 5

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

Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map

Mission: The Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map is intended:

1. To assist policymakers 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.

It provides 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 IDHS

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

Age: Birth through age 5

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

Illinois Early Learning Project

Mission: The Illinois Early Learning Project 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

Age: Birth through age 5

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 8

Website: www.starnet.org

Kindergarten Individual Development Survey

Mission: The Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (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 ISBE goal that every child in Illinois deserves to attend a school wherein all kindergartners 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 and refresher trainings;
- District administrative trainings for building principals, assistant principals and other administrators;
- KIDS data use workshops; and
- Trainings on observation-based assessment and documentation for KIDS

Age: Kindergarten

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

Partner Plan Act

Mission: The Partner Plan Act website is a statewide resource that provides local early childhood 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 5

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

Start Early-Prevention Initiative

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

Start Early supports 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; Chicago Public Schools; Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Early Childhood Block Grant-Illinois StateBoard of Education

Trainings: Face-to-face, webinars, online learning, learning communities, technical assistance, coaching, etc.

Age: Birth to age 5

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