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MAP* to Inclusion & Belonging Newsletter

*Making Access Possible

May 2014

[MAP* to Inclusion and Belonging... *Making Access Possible](#) Project provides information, resources, supports and training to help child care providers, educators, specialists and families include children and youth with disabilities and other special needs in child care, after school and community settings. MAP is dedicated to promoting resources and supports that enable all children to be fully participating and valued members of their communities. The MAP newsletter alerts you to newly identified resources and practices that support optimal development and well being in high quality environments where children with and without disabilities and special needs can thrive together.

This edition officially introduces the new [Early Identification web page](#) of MAP. It offers tools and resources by topic area to aid families and service providers in identifying and addressing developmental concerns. New inspirational and educational videos have been added to our [Video Collection](#). Recent publications on effective transitions and early literacy have been added. Home visitors will be interested in the newly launched [Home Visiting Community of Practice](#). In addition, you'll find out more about how you can participate in [California's first Inclusion Conference](#) to be held in October. You'll also find new resources for [Inclusive Practice](#) on Autism and translated materials from [CA CSEFEL](#) and the [Teaching Pyramid](#).



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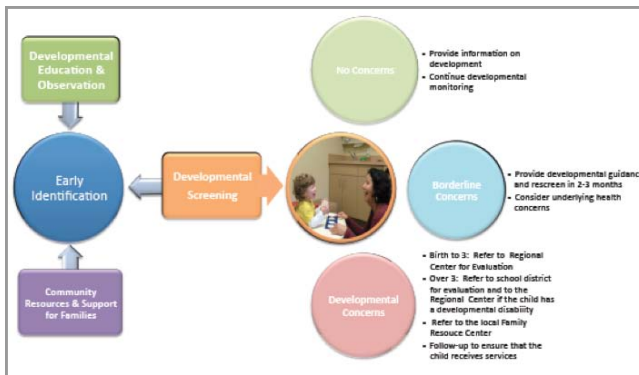
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Early Identification

The Center for Disease Control reports that the incidence of autism is now 1 in every 68 children. Research shows that early identification and early intervention is the most effective way to address developmental delays. The [Early Identification](#) page of MAP was developed in collaboration with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) Learn the Signs Act Early (LTSAE) Grant partners in California. The goal of the grant, implemented in 2013, was to promote distribution of the free CDC materials on developmental milestones to aid families, early care and education providers, early interventionists,

home visitors, health care providers and others in identifying the early signs of a developmental delay. To summarize the key components of early identification, the LTSE grant partners created a three-page [Early Identification Guide](#).



The Guide shows a color-coded graphic with the key components of early identification that match more detailed explanations on a flow chart that follows on the next two pages. The key components include (1) “**Developmental Education and Observation**” referring to the need for families and service providers to understand and observe developmental milestones (2) “**Developmental Screening,**” which identifies potential “**Developmental**

Concerns” through validated screening tools and describes next steps depending on the results of the screening (3) “**Community Resources and Supports**” that help families connect to the services their children need when “**Developmental Concerns**” are identified through screening.

The Early Identification web page categorizes information and web links by topic to provide a well-rounded set of resources to support families and providers to "Act Early" to address concerns.

- [Healthy Development](#): Videos and resources tailored to specific audiences that provide educational resources on developmental milestones and early identification.
- [Working with Families](#): Resources for building relationships with families.
- [When Concerns Arise](#): “How To” educational tools for talking with families about developmental concerns identified by a service provider or screening tool.
- [Developmental Screening](#): Resources describing the screening process and recommended screening tools from both the CDC and the new federal initiative, Birth to 5: Help Me Thrive.
- [Referral for Evaluation and Assessment](#): How to make a referral for evaluation and assessment and the agencies that provide evaluation and assessment.
- [Community Resources/Support for Families](#): Resources and links to organizations and agencies that support families of children with identified disabilities, with developmental concerns or who are at risk for developmental concerns.

Video Collection



[Inspiration! Videos](#)

MAP has added a whole new set of videos that you can watch or download and use in your trainings or staff meetings to celebrate inclusion and positive outcomes for children with disabilities. Among the videos are two from World Down Syndrome Day, one to dance to, **Happy by Pharrell Williams** and **Dear Future Mom**, a video letter to a mom expecting a baby with Down Syndrome. Others include a father’s story of his son born 14 weeks early and an inclusion video, **My Name is Jude**, which is a mini biography of a 3 year old in an inclusive childcare setting. You can’t miss the beautiful ballet done by the **Latkovski Sisters**, one with cerebral palsy.

[Inclusion Videos](#)

See [Disabling Segregation](#), the TED talk by Dan Habib who produced *Including Samuel* and videos from [Think Inclusive: 5 videos that will change your mind about inclusion](#).

[Training Videos](#)

[The Center for Health Literacy Promotion](#) has produced three 8-10 minute training videos for service providers to help orient families on how to find high-quality medical information and how to use the information for problem solving and understanding health.

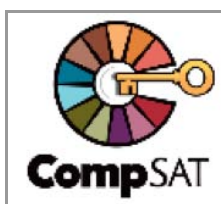
Training and Technical Assistance

Are you a home visitor? Become a part of a new community!



The newly launched [Home Visiting Community of Practice \(HVCoP\)](#) was developed by a California state-level collaborative of training and technical assistance organizations including the MAP to Inclusion and Belonging Project to support home visitors serving children birth to five and their families. It's for all the home-visiting professionals in the early childhood field of different disciplines and service levels. It provides the opportunity for home visitors to pose questions, share experiences, ideas, resources and reflections. Discussion boards are available on several ongoing topics.

How to Make the California Department of Education Early Childhood Educator Competencies Meaningful to You



[CompSAT](#), a competencies-based, self-assessment toolkit, guides you through the ECE competencies and helps you discover how these competencies might be important to you. One of the hallmarks of a profession is standards for best practice. In California, early childhood educators have established a comprehensive set of expectations for our profession, set forth in the [California Department of Education Early Childhood Educator \(CA ECE\) Competencies](#). CompSAT is the companion to the CA ECE Competencies. CompSAT guides early educators through a process of self-reflection and authentic assessment in the 12 competency areas detailed in the ECE Competencies.

[IDA/MAP Webinar Series](#) “Ideas Worthy of Replication,” hosted by the Interdisciplinary Collaborations for Quality Committee of the Infant Development Association (IDA) and co-sponsored by IDA and the MAP to Inclusion and Belonging Project of WestEd Center for Child and Family Studies. The goals of this webinar series are to bring attention to quality trainings and programs rooted in the concepts and knowledge areas of the California Competencies documents including:

- [The Early Childhood Educator Competencies](#)
- [The Revised Guidelines for Infant Family and Early Childhood Mental Health](#)
- [Interagency Coordinating Council \(ICC\) Recommended Early Start Personnel Manual](#)

A recording of the first webinar, [Caring for Parents: Elements and Models of Support, presented by Diane Smith, MFT, is available by clicking here.](#)



[The California Collaborative for the Center for Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning \(CA CSEFEL\)](#) has adapted National CSEFEL training modules and materials to be in line with the Early Education and Support Division of the California Department of Education’s Early Learning Foundations. ([See California Enhancements for more information.](#)) Many of these materials for classrooms and for families have been translated into Spanish and Chinese at the [Teaching Pyramid](#) website under “Materials.”



Healthy Mind, Healthy Body

[Move Your Body, Grow Your Brain](#), an article from Edutopia, explains how incorporating exercise and movement into the day helps make students more focused on learning and offers resources and ideas for the classroom for all ages. Read [PBS Parents Why Yoga and Kids Go Together](#) and then find free yoga for kids: [Cosmic Kids Yoga Adventure Stories for Kids on YouTube](#). [Yoga in My School](#) offers a handbook on yoga for kids with special needs.



Inclusive Practice



[Autism Awareness and Acceptance in Early Childhood Education](#) Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) affects about 1 in 68 children in the U.S. (CDC, 2014), with more children being identified than ever before. The early childhood community has a unique opportunity to touch the lives of these children and their families in ways that can make a real difference. This site from the federal Administration for Children and Families includes videos and resources and the downloadable 27-page, “[A Parent’s Guide to Autism Spectrum Disorders](#).” Also downloadable is the 13-page, [Tips for Early Care and Education Providers: Simple Concepts to Embed in Everyday Routines](#).

Prepared by some of the top researchers in the country, each tip describes a concept, why the concept is important, and a step-by-step description of how to work these simple concepts into everyday routines. [Friendship Circle Blog offers 33 Autism Resources You Need to Read](#). The Inclusive Class.com provides a downloadable poster: [10 Reasons for Inclusive Schools](#).

[10 Things the World Can Learn from People with Disabilities](#)

In this Huffington Post article, Tiffany Carlson, a writer with a disability, shares her insight: People with a disability learn so much throughout their lives; life lessons that able-bodied people rarely get to experience. Having a disability is definitely difficult, but it's also one of the richest classrooms a human can experience, too. While these learning experiences are more profound experienced directly, there are some special tokens of wisdom we can pass along. See the complete article for her insightful words of wisdom.



2014 Inclusion Collaborative State Conference

Inclusion Matters...Be the Change!



The Inclusion Collaborative Early Learning State Conference, October 23-24, 2014 is an interactive and reflective educational opportunity for those involved in the care and education of children birth to 3rd grade (with and without disabilities). Conference participants will learn to create or enhance inclusive practices in their programs. Opportunities for participation include:

Onsite Participation: At the Santa Clara County Office of Education, 150 slots are available.

Virtual Participation: The conference session will be broadcast live streaming with downloadable handouts and materials. Individuals can participate on their own computer or groups can participate in the sessions by viewing them on a large screen with the use of an LCD projector and a sound system.

Besides the reduced cost, group participation encourages local entities to host their own “virtual inclusion conference events.” Email inclusion@sccoe.org to find out more.

Online Community of Practice Supporting Inclusion: An online community of practice for participants in the inclusion conference will offer the opportunity for continued discussion of the ideas and concepts presented at the conference and support for implementation of inclusive practices.

Visit the Inclusion Collaborative Website www.inclusioncollaborative.org for: Requirements for Virtual Conference Host Sites and the Conference Program or email inclusion@sccoe.org.

Upcoming Events

IDA: Northern California Regional Conference

IDA Northern California Regional Conference
September 19-20, 2014
Marriott Hotel
Rancho Cordova, California
idaofcal.org

Supported Life Conference & Inclusion Celebration

October 8-10, 2014
Lions Gate Hotel
Sacramento, CA
supportedlife.org



Inclusion Conference

October 23-24, 2014
Santa Clara County Office of Education
San Jose, CA
Offers On-site and On-line Attendance
inclusioncollaborative.org

Direct questions or comments about this newsletter to map@wested.org



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