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Spring 2012 MAP* to Inclusion & Belonging Newsletter

*Making Access Possible

May 2012

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In Honor of Mental Health Awareness Month Resources



Project ABC offers downloadable materials in English and Spanish including the booklet "*What is Infant Mental Health? Why is it Important?*" and "*6 Things Every New Mom & Mom-To-Be Should Know About Perinatal Depression*"



SAMHSA Substance

Welcome to the Spring 2012 MAP* to Inclusion & Belonging... *Making Access Possible Newsletter

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. The Spring Newsletter introduces MAP's newly added "Hot Topic" page on Family Engagement, acknowledges Mental Health Awareness Month and links to videos and new California Department of Education sites that support the importance of quality child care.

Family Engagement



Parents are the first and most important teachers of their children. Research shows that children whose families are involved in the education of their children are more successful in school and in life. When caregivers, teachers, medical providers, therapists and other service providers develop trusting and collaborative relationships with families, then children benefit. This is especially true for children with disabilities. To acknowledge the importance of this the MAP project team has gathered key websites with resources that support family engagement and promote partnerships with families for MAP's newest "**Hot Topic**." Here's a sample of the resources you'll find on the new **Family Engagement** page of the MAP website.

The Parent, Family and Community Engagement released in the Fall of

Abuse and Mental Health Services

Administration "Caring for Every Child's Mental Health" public awareness effort was created in 1994 with the mission to increase awareness around children's mental health. Download "*Identifying Mental Health and Substance Use Problems of Children and Adolescents: A Guide for Child-Serving Organizations*". It's found on **MAP under Disability Specific-Mental Health**.



California Center for Infant and Early Mental Health

The Center offers Infant-Family and Early Childhood Mental Health endorsement as well as training and technical assistance for professional development and a variety of resources to support infant and early mental health.

Bully Free World

Bully Free World offers a free **Special Needs Anti-Bullying Toolkit** for parents, teachers and students dealing with bullying and children with special needs. This toolkit is a set of resources for people to confront bullying of children with special needs from all angles - from talking to your children to knowing your rights to teaching tolerance in schools. Start by reading the Top Ten Facts to know about bullying and children with special needs, and then learn about the unique

2011 from the Office of Head Start, serves as a "road map" to family and community engagement. The framework and short videos focus on the development of family engagement and partnerships, and provide a comprehensive guide for incorporating research-based methods in developing relationships among families, communities, and providers which will aid in the development of a healthy and balanced child who is ready for school success. The site and resources are also available in Spanish.

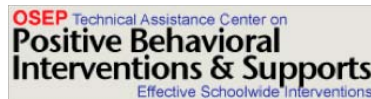


The Center for Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation

has developed an online training tutorial entitled Partnering with Families in Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation. Aimed at supporting early childhood mental health consultants, the tutorial consists of pre-test, learning modules, post-test, and additional resources. Among the downloadable resources available throughout the modules are tip sheets and checklists to assist in supporting a positive beginning to new relationships. These provide insight into developing partnerships with families that would be helpful to any professional working with families.

CONNECT Modules The **CONNECT Modules** are online

learning tutorials covering a wide array of subjects related to early childhood education and development specifically related to the inclusion of children with disabilities and special needs in preschool settings. They offer an innovative approach to solving real life problems with evidence-based practices. Module 3, Communication for Collaboration and Module 4, Family-Professional Partnerships, provide information and strategies helpful in strengthening family engagement. The modules use a variety of learning modalities including videos, tip sheets and problem-solving activities.



Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports

The Technical Assistance Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports has been established by the Office of Special Education Programs, US Department of Education, to give schools capacity-building information and technical assistance for identifying, adapting, and sustaining effective school-wide disciplinary practices. This TA Center provides guidance and tools in developing positive relationships with families of school age children. MAP provides links to the area on the website that provide rationale for parent involvement, research, best practices and tips for teachers (School, Family and Community Partnerships) and a link to another area of the site that includes a list of parent training resources and specifically a "Family Engagement Checklist." The entire website is also available in Spanish.

The Importance of Quality Child Care - Videos and new CDE Postings

challenges children with special needs face when encountering bullying.



The Bullying Prevention Project is the initial project of the Sacramento County Student Mental Health and Wellness Collaborative. Although the purpose is to support Sacramento County school districts, the trove of resources available on this site can benefit anyone looking for information or professional development on bullying.



For Our Babies is a national movement promoting healthy development in U.S. children from conception to age 3. They advocate for the types of environments, experiences, and relationships that infants and toddlers need in order to thrive. Visit the website to see how you can get involved.



Are you involved with the **California Collaborative for the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning** (CA CSEFEL)? If you are a child care provider visit the newly reorganized web page and take the survey to help the CA CSEFEL Leadership California.



The importance of quality child care has been acknowledged by the federal government with the **Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant** that California was awarded in January 2012. At the same time California's capacity to provide quality child care in California is threatened by the

Governor's 2012-2013 budget proposal as explained by the **State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson's Child Care Funding Testimony**. MAP has added links to the sites that explain these issues under the **California Department of Education in the Legal and Licensing area of MAP**.

The following recently produced videos found on the **Policy/Trends area of MAP** highlight the need for quality child care:

Importance of Quality Child Care Video

As reported by Today's Jenna Bush Hager. New research shows that children who spend the first two years of their life watching more television than engaging with books, toys and people are more likely to have long-term effects including delayed language skills and a brain that's not wired for learning and development.

A Day Without Child Care Video

This 10 minute video produced by the Humboldt County Local Child Care Planning Council uses a humorous approach to show the impact of budget cuts to child care on the entire community.

New Website on the Teaching Pyramid



The Teaching Pyramid approach provides a systematic framework that promotes social and emotional development, provides support for children's appropriate behavior, prevents challenging behavior, and addresses problematic behavior.

The WestEd Center for Child and Family Studies offers comprehensive professional development packages for infant/toddler, preschool, and early elementary educators. WestEd's Teaching Pyramid is based on evidence-based practice originally developed by the Center on the Social Emotional Foundations in Early Learning (CSEFEL), authorized by California Department of Education (CDE), and aligned with California's Early Learning and Development System.

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



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