

**Inside this issue:**

- 1) NECTAC Creates Web Site on Natural Environments and Inclusion
- 2) Healthy Steps Program Provides Useful Resources for Parents and Providers
- 3) Evidence-Based Early Intervention Resources Available Online
- 4) Autism Education Network Launches Parent Directory
- 5) Resource for University Faculty Members

**1) NECTAC Creates Web Site on Natural Environments and Inclusion**

The National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (NECTAC) recently added a section titled "Natural Environments and Inclusion Bibliography Database" to their Web site. The database contains useful information about articles and books written to ensure young children with special needs are fully included into their communities. Users can search the entire database or they may search for specific titles or authors as well. To access the database, please visit the NECTAC Web site at <http://www.nectac.org/inclusion/search/inclubibintro.asp>.

**2) Healthy Steps Program Provides Useful Resources for Parents and Providers**

Healthy Steps for Young Children is a national initiative, developed by the faculty in the department of pediatrics at the Boston University School of Medicine, to improve the quality of preventive health care for infants and toddlers. Established with Commonwealth Fund support, the program emphasizes a close relationship between health care professionals and parents in addressing the physical, emotional, and intellectual development of children from birth to age 3. Among the benefits Healthy Steps provides are authoritative materials for parents and health professionals to promote child development and enhance well-child care. Several materials, including parent handouts and quick check sheets, are available in English and Spanish and are now being made available free of charge as a service to interested professionals and parents at [http://www.cmwf.org/General/General\\_show.htm?doc\\_id=246567](http://www.cmwf.org/General/General_show.htm?doc_id=246567). For more information about the Healthy Steps program, please visit <http://www.healthysteps.org>.

**3) Evidence-Based Early Intervention Resources Available Online**

The Research and Training Center on Early Childhood Development Web site offers several useful, high-quality, visually-appealing and evidence-based resources for parents, therapists, early childhood educators, early interventionists and researchers. You can download "bridges" (practice-centered research syntheses of topics related to early childhood development), "bottomlines" (one or two page summaries of practical applications of research in everyday settings) and "solutions tool kits" (user friendly products that focus on specific early childhood practices) by visiting the Web site at <http://www.researchtopractice.info/>.

**4) Autism Education Network Launches Parent Directory**

The Autism Education Network has launched its flagship online resource known as Parent Directory. It's a free searchable database for parents and families of children affected by Autism Spectrum Disorders. The database acts as a matchmaking service for families searching for answers and assistance to deal with the complex issues of raising a child affected by autism. For more information or to access this directory, please visit <http://www.autismeducation.net>.

**5) Resource for University Faculty Members**

A new working paper from the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child entitled "Excessive Stress Disrupts the Architecture of the Developing Brain" provides useful information on the various types of stress, as well as how stress affects brain development in young children. To download the paper, please visit <http://www.developingchild.net/reports.shtml>.

~~~~~**MITTS**~~~~~

MITTS is funded by Mississippi State Department of Health, Infant and Toddler Early Intervention Program and sponsored by the Institute for Disability Studies, Mississippi's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD). Headquartered for more than 25 years at Southern Miss, the Institute provides university training, community service activities, research, and information that promote the independence, productivity, and community inclusion of individuals with disabilities and their families. For more information about IDS, visit the Institute's Web site at [www.ids.usm.edu](http://www.ids.usm.edu) or call 1-888-671-0051 (TTY). To make a tax-deductible gift to IDS, visit <http://www.ids.usm.edu/supportus.asp>.

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As of Last Complete Printing  
Number of Pages: 2  
Number of Words: 947 (approx.)  
Number of Characters: 5,400 (approx.)