

Institute for Disability Studies
MITTS Memo
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- 1) "Conversations" Scheduling Change

The "Conversations" interactive video training session that was originally scheduled for Friday, June 23 has been cancelled. A video will be developed of an actual in-district outcomes training. This video will be made available to all districts for viewing and group discussion opportunities. For more information, please contact Jerry R. Alliston at 1.888.671.0051 or jerry.alliston@usm.edu.

Please be sure to check the MITTS Web site at <http://www.usm.edu/ids/mitts> and/or the IDS Calendar of Events at <http://idsusm.ventech.com/calevents/mitts.asp> for the latest early childhood training opportunities.

- 2) IDS Publishes "All Together" Community Calendar

The Institute for Disability Studies (IDS) recently published its annual "All Together" community calendar for June 2006 - May 2007. The calendar depicts images of children and adults with special needs throughout the state of Mississippi. To order a copy of the calendar, please visit the IDS Web site at <http://www.usm.edu/ids> or contact Theresa Pender at 601.266.5163 or theresa.pender@usm.edu.

- 3) New Research Tool for Early Intervention

Researchers at the National Early Childhood Transition Center (NECTC) are using a research method known as Critical Incident Technique (CIT, Flanagan, 1954) as a way to gather specific information on the transition process for children with disabilities as they exit early intervention and preschool programs. The CIT method offers a unique opportunity to identify effective and ineffective practices in the area of early childhood transition. It stresses the importance of recording key incidents from the perspective of service providers (e.g., teachers, service coordinators, etc.), local and state administrators, and parents of young children that have experienced a

transition. To view a new Research Spotlight on this topic, please visit the NECTC Web site at <http://www.ihdiuky.edu/NECTC/Documents/researchSpotlight/NECTCSpotlight2.pdf>

4) Research on Substance Exposed Infants and Early Development

A new publication from the National Abandoned Infants Assistance Resource Center (NAIARC) reviews recent findings from the academic literature related to the impact of prenatal substance exposure on the early development of infants and young children. The report also presents possible intervention strategies and implications for early intervention, policy and practice. To download the report, please visit the NAIARC Web site at http://aia.berkeley.edu/media/pdf/prenatal_substance_exposure_review.pdf.

5) Resource for University Faculty Members

A new organization titled "Research Connections" offers a comprehensive and easily searchable collection of nearly 8,000 resources from the many disciplines related to child care and early education. The program's Web site allows professionals to find the most current information through sections such as Reports and Papers, Fact Sheets and Briefs, Executive Summaries, Datasets, and Instruments and Measures. "Research Connections" also offers guidance on understanding research and assessing research quality, as well as comparative state data tools and policy links on early development and education. Much of the information provided by this resource deals with the early education of young children with special needs. The organization also prepares research briefs and reviews, shares new materials from collaborations of researchers and policymakers, posts information on federally funded research, offers online technical assistance and welcomes contributions of research, data, and other resources. To access the Research Connections Web site, please visit <http://childcareresearch.org/discover/index.jsp>.

****If you are having trouble accessing any of the above links, please make sure the entire link is highlighted. If it is not, please cut and paste the entire link in your Web browser to access the resource.****

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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.usm.edu/ids](http://www.usm.edu/ids) or call 1-888-671-0051 (TTY). To make a tax-deductible gift to IDS, visit <http://www.usm.edu/ids/supportus.html>.

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Please visit the MITTS web site at

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<http://www.usm.edu/ids/mitts/index.html>

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and see the Early Childhood Training Events Calendar

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<http://www.usm.edu/ids/calendar.html>

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