



Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia

MONTHLY UPDATE

March 2016

IN THIS ISSUE:

- [State Systemic Improvement Plan \(SSIP\)](#)
- [The Decision Tree](#)
- [Did You Know?](#)
- [Coming Soon -- Family Surveys](#)
- [Materials on Loan for Children with Sensory Impairments](#)
- [Part C Staff Directory](#)

Quick Links

STATE SYSTEMIC IMPROVEMENT PLAN (SSIP)

As part of the State Performance Plan /Annual Performance Report, each state is required to develop and submit to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, a State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP). We are in the second year, Phase II, of developing the plan.

The measurable result that will be the focus of Virginia's SSIP is increasing the statewide percentage of infants and toddlers with IFSPs (exiting early intervention at age level) who demonstrate improved use of appropriate behaviors to meet their needs.

State staff are in the process of considering all stakeholder input as well as information from national technical assistance providers as we finalize the SSIP for submission to OSEP by the April 1, 2016 due date. To ensure consistent understanding of the steps and activities on the final SSIP and what these will mean for local systems, providers and families, we will be holding an information webinar on March 14, 3:00 - 4:30pm. You can use the following link to register for this webinar: <http://conta.cc/1R4wYZV>.

The webinar will also be recorded and posted on the Virginia Early Intervention Professional Development website for those who are unable to participate in the live webinar.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

THE DECISION TREE

The Decision Tree



Child Indicator Seeds for Success

Why Culture Matters: Child Rearing Beliefs to Consider for Arab Americans

Disclaimer: The following information is based on research of possible cultural beliefs. As with all cultures, there will be variance in values and practices.

Last month we reviewed the challenges immigrants from the Middle East face when coming to the United States. In addition to recognizing what resources families may need, we need to be aware of the child rearing beliefs and practices Middle Easterners value. Arab immigrant parents tend to hold true to their culturally rooted child rearing values and traditions, while trying to adapt to the mainstream values of a new culture. They typically come from countries where an authoritarian parenting approach is viewed as the norm, where their children must respect and obey these values and where family honor is often most important.

Here are possible child rearing beliefs you may encounter when working with families from Arab descent:

- Boy children may be valued more than girls. Because of Muslim inheritance laws, a family without a male heir can lose a significant portion of their assets outside the nuclear family to other relatives (parents, other male relatives related to the father).
- Arab mothers may practice demand feeding. Girls may be weaned well before the development of significant language and once weaned; her needs may get relatively little attention. The boy, on the other hand, may continue to nurse until long after the establishment of language. He should be able to verbalize his desires and be instantly gratified when he desires to be breastfed.
- Weaning may occur over a few days. Techniques may include diversion, cajoling, and placing hot spices and dyes on the nipples. A weaned child may be expected to participate in adult routines for eating and sleeping. Since these adult routines include late bedtime, late dinners, tough, chewy foods, and much consumption of tea and sugar, a child's behavior may regress. They may use

whining to gain attention.

- Middle Eastern parents may be very protective not only with respect to behavior, but also how the child thinks. A young child may become accustomed to suppressing his or her inquisitive and exploratory tendencies and sense of initiative. Children may become more passive about expressing their attitudes and have more limited decision making skills than other children.
- Toilet training may take place very early, often towards the end of the first year.
- Punishment may include spanking or teasing in front of peers or other family members.

[Click Here to View Document](#)

Did You Know? Medicaid Eligibility

Parents are required to notify the Department of Social Services when changes occur that impact their Medicaid eligibility, including loss of the child's SSI benefit. This is the assurance they sign when they apply for Medicaid:

I know that I must tell the local Department of Social Services within 10 calendar days if anything changes and is different than what I wrote on this application. I can visit www.commonhelp to report any changes. I understand that a change in my information could affect the eligibility for member(s) of my household.

Service Coordinators should reinforce the message to families that they must notify their local social services department when there are changes in their situation that could impact Medicaid eligibility, including loss of the SSI benefit. DMAS conducts reviews and can/will require families to pay back Medicaid payments that were made for a child that was not eligible.

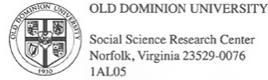
[BACK TO TOP](#)

Coming Soon -- Family Surveys

Pre-notification flyers for the family survey will be sent to families the first week of April. Survey mailings will begin April 18th with second mailings beginning May 16th.

Please help your local system increase response rates by talking to families about the survey during provider visits and service coordination contacts. Let families know that survey data is used to plan improvements to the early intervention system. To view the family survey, click [here](#). Share the Child and Family Outcomes handout

with families and use it as a reference to guide your discussion. To view the handout, click [here](#). Help make families aware that the survey will be mailed from Old Dominion University by sharing a sample of the return address on the envelope:



Providers and service coordinators are the family's primary links to the early intervention system. By sharing the importance of completing the family survey you give families a voice to express the impact of early intervention services in their daily lives. Thanks for your help in encouraging families to complete the survey and thereby providing input to guide implementation of early intervention services in their locality.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Materials on Loan for Children with Sensory Impairments

In the summer of 2014, **Outreach Services** of the **Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind** received a small grant from the Virginia Department of Education to purchase materials focused on early intervention and early childhood education of children who are deaf/hard of hearing, blind/visually impaired, or deaf-blind. Some of the money was used to purchase **sound field systems** (FM systems for a room, that help children better hear the teacher's voice over background noise). These have been placed at the **Virginia Hearing Aid Loan Bank** for lending (contact Lisa Powley at vhalb@virginia.edu). The remainder of funds were used to purchase **resource materials for educators working with birth to 5 year olds**; these were placed in each of the **TTAC Lending Libraries**. See <http://www.vsdb.k12.va.us/Outreach/Deaf-Resources.php> under "Resources From the Virginia Department of Education" for a listing of these materials, contact information for each of the TTAC Lending Libraries, and a description of each item on lend.

For links to many more resources for families of and educators working with children with sensory impairments, be sure and visit:

<http://www.vsdb.k12.va.us/Outreach/VI-Resources.php>,
<http://www.vsdb.k12.va.us/Outreach/Deaf-Resources.php>, and
<http://www.vsdb.k12.va.us/Outreach/Deaf-Blindness-Resources.php>

Part C Staff Directory

Catherine Hancock	<i>Early Intervention Administrator</i>	(804) 371-6592
Anne Brager	<i>Part C Technical Assistant Consultant</i>	(434) 374-2120

Richard Corbett	<i>Part C Monitoring Consultant</i>	(804) 786-9682
Karen Durst	<i>Part C Technical Assistant Consultant</i>	(804) 786-9844
Cori Hill	<i>Part C Training Consultant</i>	(540) 943-6776
David Mills	<i>Part C Data Manager</i>	(804) 371-6593
Sarah Moore	<i>Part C Monitoring Consultant</i>	(804) 371-5208
Kyla Patterson	<i>Part C Consultant</i>	(860) 430-1160
Irene Scott	<i>Administrative & Office Specialist III</i>	(804) 786-4868
Terri Strange-Boston	<i>Part C Technical Assistant Consultant</i>	(804) 786-0992
Beth Tolley	<i>Early Intervention Team Leader</i>	(804) 371-6595
LaKeisha White	<i>Office Services Specialist</i>	(804) 786-3710
Telisha Woodfin	<i>Part C Monitoring Consultant</i>	(804) 786-1522

Note about This Update:

This Update is prepared by the Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia State Team at the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services as a means of sharing current information from the DBHDS/Part C Office.

Enrollment of Children in the Medicaid Data System (VAMMIS)

Please note the following contact information for questions about enrollment of children in the Medicaid Data System (VAMMIS).

- [Irene Scott](#) * 804-786-4868
- [Beth Tolley](#) * 804-371-6595

Early Intervention Certification

For questions about certification of practitioners, contact [Irene Scott](#) * 804-786-4868

For questions related to completing the online application, contact [David Mills](#) * 804-371-6593

Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia | (804) 786-3710 |

irene.scott@dbhds.virginia.gov | <http://infantva.org/>

1220 Bank Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Text | [Optional Link](#)