

EIS In Touch With Families

EIS SUNDAY Fund'ay!

For Early Intervention Services Families and Staff

On Sunday, August 20th, the first Early Intervention Services Sunday Funday was held. The event took place at Bruce's Mill Conservation Area and everyone had access to the Community Safety Village during the event. The purpose of the get together was to provide families with an opportunity to:

- connect with each other and with staff in a fun, social, environment
- spend a pleasurable afternoon participating in a variety of activities which included games, face painting, magician, movement to music, jewellery making, barbeque lunch, therapy dogs and Zoo To You animals

A total of 328 people braved the cool weather and the ongoing threat of rain to participate. Thank you to everyone who participated in making this event a huge success!



Changes in EIS Service

EIS is in the midst of several changes that will improve our service to families and children enrolled in EIS. Our staff has discussed some of the changes with you already, but some may be new to you. Not everyone enrolled in EIS will be directly impacted by these changes.

Serving You Better - New Office in Oak Ridges

A new EIS office in Oak Ridges will be opening on the corner of Yonge and Ashfield. This building will house our Central EIS Team. Families currently served by this team will continue to have the same Early Interventionists as they do now. Our partners, York Region Preschool Speech and Language (PSLP) and the Children's Treatment Network (CTN) will also have offices and will deliver services in this building. We are referring to this building and partnership as a multi-service hub for families with children who have special needs. A grand opening ceremony is being planned and further details will be provided to you once plans are finalized.

New Service Delivery of Occupational and Physiotherapy Services

In the past, our therapists have been used for consultations only, now they will deliver direct therapy. This means a change for some families enrolled in EIS. For some, the consultation for motor needs will be done by their Early Interventionist who will use various screening tests to determine if direct therapy is required. For those needing direct therapy, our therapists will use certain motor assessments to determine the type and extent of the therapy needed. How often the therapists come, what they do, and when they stop their service or change the level of care will be guided by clinical standards agreed upon by all pre-school aged therapy providers.



Use of Preterm Pathways

Preterm Pathways is an evidenced-based approach to guiding services for children born prematurely. The approach recommends differing levels of monitoring or service depending on medical and developmental factors of each child. Using this approach will help ensure we are applying the best practices in the field and will ensure that each child and family receive the appropriate level of support. For more details, refer to page 3.

EIS is committed to continuous improvement in service delivery. It is expected that clinical expertise, a growing population, and our commitment to efficient service delivery will require changes in other aspects of our service over time. As we make changes to our services, we will continue to keep families informed.

Dan Beale, Manager, Early Intervention Services

Book Reviews

Engaging Autism: Using the Floortime Approach to Help Children Relate, Communicate, and Think
by Stanley Greenspan and Serena Wieder

Dr. Greenspan has put together his DIR/Floortime program in one clear and accessible volume. DIR/Floortime empowers the entire family to promote their child's development throughout each day as well as guiding the efforts of speech pathologists, occupational and physical therapists and early interventionists.

Zoom! by Robert Munsch



Lauretta is a young girl with a brand new 92 speed dirt bike wheelchair. This powerful piece of equipment gets Lauretta in trouble with the law but it also enables her to drive her brother to the hospital after he cuts his finger.

Munsch presents Lauretta's wheelchair as a fun tool that Lauretta uses to get around. Lauretta's black, silver and red wheelchair looks like so much fun that other children want to try it!

Early Intervention Services Staff Training

Early Intervention Services provides numerous training opportunities to enhance the staff's ability to deliver quality service. Here is an overview of the most recent staff training.

Stepping Stones Triple P

The Stepping Stones Triple P program is part of the Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) developed in Australia. This parent training program is designed for families with a child between the ages of two and eight who has a disability. Stepping Stones Triple P is an intervention which aims to help parents to manage their child's behaviour. Parents are taught skills that help promote their child's development, social competence and self-control, skills that can be used immediately and later on as the child grows. Parents learn new skills and new ways of thinking and acting in regards to their child's behaviour.

The Stepping Stones Triple P program consists of 10 consecutive sessions, approximately one and a half to two hours each. Each session results in approximately one hour of homework. Sessions take place in the child's home and/or an EIS office.

Preterm Pathways

Early Intervention Services is pleased to announce our participation in a new program geared specifically to meet the unique needs of premature infants and children.

Preterm Pathways is a relatively new service offered to families of children who are born prematurely. Developed as a research project with Dr. Virginia Frisk, from the Hospital for Sick Children, it focuses on the development of premature infants and children. By using the Preterm Pathways, Early Interventionists are provided with clear guidelines for monitoring an individual child's development.

On Preterm Pathways, your child's development will be monitored using a variety of developmental screens; focussing on overall child development, language and motor development. This monitoring

will happen at specific ages throughout your child's early years.

Early Interventionists from each office have been trained in Preterm Pathways. We have started to offer this service to many families and are quite excited with the results. This additional method of screening children will ensure that your preterm infant or child will continue to receive a high quality of intervention, based on his or her specific needs.

Interaction Guidance

A child develops a relationship with an adult based on how that adult responds to the child most of the time, when the child is emotionally upset, physically hurt or ill. Early relationships lay the foundation for all later relationships.

Interaction Guidance is a short-term intervention focusing on the quality of adult and child interactions. Interaction Guidance attempts to enhance individual family strengths and family competence by using video taping to highlight the positive aspects of family interaction. Through play, adult family members will understand the child's behaviour and development thus promoting stronger adult and child interactions.

If you would like more information about any of the training provided to staff please speak to your Early Interventionist.



Mmm...Mmm...Good

With these easy recipes your child can have fun learning how to make healthy snacks.

Cookie Cutter Toast

Simply make toast and then have your child cut the toast with their favourite cookie cutters.

Using a plastic or dull knife, your child can spread their favourite toast topping.



Ants On A Log

Ingredients: celery, peanut butter or cream cheese, raisins

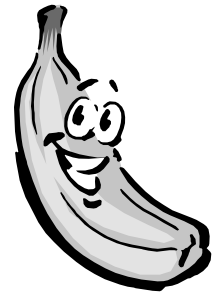
Cut the celery pieces into 3 inch lengths. Your child can spread peanut butter or cream cheese on the celery then add the raisins.

Banana Dog In A Bun

Ingredients: hot dog bun, banana, peanut butter or cream cheese, jam or honey, raisins, shredded coconut

On an open hot dog bun, children can spread the peanut butter or cream cheese (using a plastic knife or butter knife) on one side

of the bun. On the other side, they spread the jam or honey. The banana goes in the middle with raisins and coconut spread on top.



Spring Songs

Flower Garden

(Tune: The Farmer In The Dell)

The farmer plants the seeds
The farmer plants the seeds
Hi, Ho and Cherry O
The farmer plants the seeds
The rain begins to fall.....
The sun begins to shine.....
The plants begin to grow....
The buds all open up.....
The flowers smile at me.....

Little Ducks Song

(Tune: London Bridge)

Little ducks go quack, quack,
quack
Quack, quack, quack,
Quack, quack, quack.
Little ducks go quack, quack,
quack
In the springtime.
2. Little lambs go baa, baa, baa,
3. Little pigs go oink, oink, oink

Artist's Corner

Paper Plate Umbrellas

Materials: Large paper plate, markers and crayons.

Instructions: Give your child a large paper plate with a hole in the middle. Ask your child to decorate the backs of their plates with the markers and crayons. When finished, they poke their index finger through the plate hole to make the umbrella. Your child can walk around the house singing -

It's raining,
It's raining,
Oh me, oh my!
But my umbrella
will keep me dry.



Rock Paintings

Take a spring walk and talk to your child about the sights of spring. On the walk pick up smooth, flat stones and put them in a bag to take home. **Materials:** smooth flat stones, acrylic paints, paint brushes, felt tip markers.

Instructions: Clean and dry the stones you found on your walk. Ask your child to paint the stones using one or many colours. Let the stones dry completely and ask your child to add lines and other designs with the markers. Painted stones can be used as paper weights, ornaments or to hold down the table cloth on the picnic table.

EIS In Touch With Families is a newsletter for families who receive service from York Region's Early Intervention Services. For more information on any aspect of this newsletter please contact **Linda Leveiller-Wheeler** at 905-830-4444, Ext. 2075 or toll free at 1-877-464-9675, Ext. 2075. For more information about York Region's Children's Services and the Community Services and Housing Department, go to: www.york.ca