



# FPG Child Development Institute

## The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

### Early Intervention Training Center for Infants and Toddlers with Visual Impairments

CB # 8185 Chapel Hill, NC 27599-8185

Toll Free: 1-866-842-2237

Fax: 919-843-5784

## Early Intervention Training Center for Infants and Toddlers with Visual Impairments: 2002 Activities

### August 1, 2002

The Early Intervention Training Center for Infants and Toddlers with Visual Impairments has been busy during the past 18 months. The project was established to develop resources that will build the capacity of universities to prepare personnel to serve infants and toddlers with visual impairments and their families. The five-year project is located at the FPG Child Development Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is funded under a cooperative agreement to Dr. Deborah Hatton from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs. Dr. L. Penny Rosenblum and Dr. Jane Erin at the University of Arizona are major collaborators.

During 2002 project staff hosted two meetings with our university partners. The first meeting was held immediately preceding the Josephine L. Taylor Leadership Institute in Washington, DC on March 8. During this half-day meeting, University Advisory Board members and other invited guests previewed the home visit session from our *Family Centered-Practices* module and provided suggestions for enhancing the module. The module is in two formats, an interactive CD-ROM and a traditional notebook with electronic files of documents on a CD. This module, along with the others we will develop in the next three years, will be shared with university programs that prepare personnel to serve individuals with visual impairments.

Project staff hosted a Leadership Institute on Family-Centered Practices for university faculty in Raleigh and Chapel Hill, North Carolina in May 2002. Our university partners participated in sessions led by nationally known experts in family-centered practices including Dr. Pam Winton, Dr. Robin McWilliam, and Dr. Don Bailey. In addition, Dr. P.J. McWilliam led a session on the case method of instruction. During a half-day working session, participants evaluated the *Family Centered Practices* module and provided feedback on its content, format, accessibility, and usefulness, as well as providing direction for the development of future modules.

The project listserv is quite active with over 200 members who share information and seek resources. To join the listserv and be automatically enrolled, complete the form at <http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~edin/listserv/subscription.cfm>. Topics on the listserv in recent months include delayed visual maturation, what to do after the functional vision assessment has been completed, and instruments to use when assessing an infant's or toddler's vision.

Dr. Irene Topor is coordinating the development of the module on *Visual Conditions and Functional Vision Assessments* in collaboration with Amanda Hall Lueck from San Francisco State University, Gail Calvello from Blind Babies' Foundation in San Francisco, Elizabeth Morgan Dennison from Utah State University, Tanni Anthony from the Colorado Department of Education, and Karen Blankenship from the Iowa Department of Education. Marianne Riggio from the Hilton Perkins Foundation will serve as coordinator of a module on deaf-blindness,

while Tanni Anthony and Susan Shier Lowry will coordinate the development of the module on developmentally appropriate orientation and mobility and motor development. A list of proposed modules can be found at the Update section of our web site. Please visit our web site regularly and provide us with input on the module content.

For more information about the project, contact

**Deborah Hatton, Ph.D.**

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
CB # 8185, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-8185  
Phone: 919-966-7186 Fax: 919-966-7532  
Email: [Deborah\\_Hatton@unc.edu](mailto:Deborah_Hatton@unc.edu)

**L. Penny Rosenblum, Ph.D.**

University of Arizona  
P.O. Box 210069  
Tucson, AZ 85721-0069  
Phone: 520-621-1223 Fax: 520-621-3821  
Email: [rosenblu@u.arizona.edu](mailto:rosenblu@u.arizona.edu)