



FPG Child Development Institute

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Early Intervention Training Center for Infants and Toddlers with Visual Impairments
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Early Intervention Training Center for Infants and Toddlers With Visual Impairments: 2003 Activities

August 1, 2003

During the past year, the Early Intervention Training Center for Infants and Toddlers with Visual Impairments has focused on developing content modules. This project was established to develop resources that will assist universities in preparing 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, Dr. Irene Topor, and Dr. Jane Erin at the University of Arizona are major collaborators.

Eleven peer reviewers, including university faculty members and practitioners, reviewed the *Family-Centered Practices* module last fall. We spent several months revising the module based on the input from reviewers. The module was then field tested by the University of Arizona, Kutztown University, Florida State University, and North Carolina Central University. In addition, Karen Blankenship used the *Family-Centered Practices* module for a course taught by Dr. Wendy Sapp through Drake University in July. Additional revisions from the field test phase have been made, and we plan to disseminate the module in January 2004. We are most grateful to the following colleagues who served as field reviewers for the *Family-Centered Practices* module: Carol Allison and Mary Jean Sanspree from the University of AL at Birmingham; Jim Bickford from Portland State University; Virginia Bishop, Private Consultant from Austin, TX; Karen Blankenship from the IA Department of Education; Toni Heinze from Northern IL University; Sandy Lewis from FL State University; Anne Spitz and Bob McCulley from the University of MA at Boston; David Ross from Kutztown University; Wendy Sapp from Vanderbilt University; Rosanne Silberman, Hunter College; Brad Walker, NC Central University; and Diane Wormsley, PA College of Optometry.

Currently, 12 university faculty members, practitioners, and clinicians are reviewing the *Visual Conditions and Functional Vision: Early Intervention Issues* module. It will be field tested at the University of Arizona this fall. Content for the *Developmentally Appropriate Orientation and Mobility* and *Communication and Emergent Literacy* modules is being written and edited this fall. We plan to have experts review the *Developmentally Appropriate Orientation and Mobility* and *Communication and Emergent Literacy* modules later this year. We will begin work on the *Assessment* module in January and anticipate that it will take a year to develop and field review this module. We plan to field test it in January 2005 and to disseminate it in October 2005.

In order to support university faculty members in integrating early childhood content into their courses, our project offers an annual mini-grant competition that provides up to \$1,000 per award. During 2002-2003, the following faculty members received awards:

Jim Bickford, Portland State University
Roseanna Davidson, Texas Tech University
Amanda Hall Lueck, San Francisco State University
Bob McCulley, University of Massachusetts-Boston
David Ross, Kutztown University, PA
Rona Shaw, Dominican College, NY
Annette Skellenger, Western Michigan University
Irene Topor, University of Arizona
Ellen Trief, Hunter College, NY
Diane Wormsley, Pennsylvania College of Optometry
Lillian Young, Northeastern State University, OK

The project listserv is quite active with approximately 375 members from 39 states and nine countries. To join the listserv and be automatically enrolled, complete the form at <http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~edin/listserv/subscription.cfm>. The following topics have been addressed on the list serv in recent months: autism and visual impairment, pre-cane use, eligibility rules, functional vision assessment, and Leber's congenital amaurosis.

The project web site at <http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~edin/> provides a list of proposed modules and proposed content for modules that are being developed. The resource page is the most popular section of the web site.

For more information about the project, contact

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