

## Eastern Regional Inclusion Connections Minutes November 12, 2008

### 20 Participants

#### Topic – The Referral Process

One need providers have is on how to approach family members when a delay is suspected. There was discussion about the need to build a positive relationship with the family but the group would like more information.

Clarification was given concerning the difference between a referral and notification for the school system. Most people use the word “referral” as giving notice but schools use the word notification instead and use “referral” as when the parent gives permission to begin the process.

There was discussion around the need to know child development, not only for teachers, but also for therapists. Several screening tools were mentioned and the website <http://www.zerotothree.org> has a downloadable list for children birth to 36 months.

One item that was discussed is how some M@4 programs (Johnston Cty) have a process that teachers go through to try and help a child before they make a referral or call an inclusion specialist. This is a model the group really liked and thought it should be taught statewide. The inclusion specialist that attended described her job and how she is instrumental in helping with the referrals from childcare and works directly with the Johnston M@4 program. (maybe something for the website)

It was mentioned that including the licensing consultants would be beneficial to include in knowing the referral process.

Johnston County LICC is developing a flow chart for children 0-5 on the referral and transition process who have special needs. There is a flowchart for referring on the Early Intervention website that people can download (this may be in the Parent Handbook of I/T program).

#### Topic – Integrated Therapy

Participants shared stories of both positive and negative experiences of therapy for children. There was discussion of why more therapists don't offer integrated therapy.

Some questions/topics that arose were: What do the HIPPA laws say about sharing information with teachers? Teachers do not know how to approach therapists to invite them into their classroom to do integrated therapy. They need help in what to ask (somewhat intimidated by therapists).

A suggestion of the group was to have regional meetings to invite both therapists and representatives from childcare to come together and talk about the issues, facilitated by someone who is knowledgeable in integrated therapy. This also can be done at the county level but they need help in finding someone to facilitate.

OSR gave information about the demonstration cites across the state that anyone can call & visit. The sites are listed on the OSR website.

**Focus for next meeting:** Information for working with families (especially approaching with a problem), Johnston County to share flow chart if finished, information on embedded instruction (home, classroom, community)