

## ***What's Law Got to Do With It? Sharing Legislation and Policies that Impact Children with Special Needs***

**Facilitator:** Linda Brault

### **Objectives:**

- Identify information that students, practitioners and families need to know related to laws and policies that affect young children with special needs and their families
- Share information about a variety of strategies for conveying this information
- Share information about resources (print, video and electronic) for disseminating information about laws and policies.

### **I. What's Law Got to Do with It?**

- A. Opening Activity on perspectives about legislation and policy [Handout #1]

### **II. What do students in child development programs need to know about law and policy for children with special needs and their families?**

- A. Information about existing laws and regulations (federal and state)
- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
  - ADA resources on the Web ([www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/adahom1.htm](http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/adahom1.htm)) [Handout]
  - Commonly Asked Questions about Childcare Centers and the Americans with Disabilities Act ([www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/childq%26a.htm](http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/childq%26a.htm))
  - Video clip from *Starting Point: Children are Children First* (The Mainstreaming Project, 1994)
  
  - The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) *Video clip from IDEA*
  - IDEA resources on the Web ([www.ideapractices.org/](http://www.ideapractices.org/)) [Handout]
  - Video clip from *Early Intervention on the Move* (Child Development Resources, 1999)
  - Challenges and Opportunities for Reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (2002) [Handout]
  
  - Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act

- [http://college.hmco.com/education/resources/res\\_prof/students/spec\\_ed/legislation/pl\\_93-112.html](http://college.hmco.com/education/resources/res_prof/students/spec_ed/legislation/pl_93-112.html)
- Head Start
- <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/hsb/about/index.htm>
- Title V – Maternal and Child Health
- Using Title V to Support Child Development Services ([http://www.cmwf.org/programs/child/rosenbaum\\_titlev\\_481.pdf](http://www.cmwf.org/programs/child/rosenbaum_titlev_481.pdf))
- Technology Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 1998
- <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OERI/ECL/newsletters/99spring/early5.html>
- No Child Left Behind (ESEA 2001)
- Summary of the Act (<http://www.ed.gov/nclb/summary.html>)
- Information for Parents (<http://nclb.gov/parents/>)
- Information for States (<http://nclb.gov/next/where/statecontacts.html>)

B. How do laws and regulations impact day-to-day practices?

- See Handout #4 “Backward Mapping Activity”

C. Strategies for educating and providing potentially influencing information to legislators and policy makers

- NAEYC Children’s Champions Public Policy Center (<http://www.capwiz.com/naeyc/home/>)
- DEC Children’s Action Network (<http://www.dec-sped.org/cans/canworks.html>)
- National Head Start Association’s Government Affairs Division listserv
- Receive regular updates by email, dialogue with others about legislative and regulatory issues and stay up to the minute on what is happening in Washington, DC. To join the NHSA On Our Block legislative update, send an email message to [lyris@transcom.nhsa.org](mailto:lyris@transcom.nhsa.org). In the body of the message type: subscribe nhsagad <your full name>. In order to be added to the list, you must provide us with your full name (first and last name will suffice). Once your email and name have been put on the list, you will receive a confirmation that you are a nhsagad listserv subscriber along with directions on how to use the list. To unsubscribe from this list, send an e-mail to [lyris@transcom.nhsa.org](mailto:lyris@transcom.nhsa.org) and write in the body of the message: unsubscribe nhsagad <your full name>. PLEASE NOTE: WHEN SUBSCRIBING OR UNSUBSCRIBING, DO NOT SURROUND YOUR ADDRESS WITH BRACKETS.
- Partners in Policy Making (<http://www.partnersinpolicymaking.com/>)

D. Resources on where information can be found

- See III

E. Other?

**II. Why do students need information on laws and policy?**

- Inclusion and Access has been achieved primarily through legislation: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.
- Video clip from *Welcoming All Children: Creating Inclusive Child Care* (Freeman, Hutter-Pishgahi & Traub, 2000)
- As providers of child care they will want to be a resource to families, participate as team members with specialists, be responsive to children and comply with laws and regulations
- Video clip from *Child Care and Children with Special Needs* (NAEYC, 2000)

**III. Law and Policy on a “Need to Know” Basis**

- Directors, providers and students not yet in the field have different “needs to know”
- Information can be tailored for the audience with opening for expansion

**IV. Other Resources**

A. Online

- Education Commission of the States
- No Child Left Behind Issue Site  
(<http://www.ecs.org/ecsmain.asp?page=/html/issue.asp?issueid=195>)
- National Child Care Information Center [www.nccic.org](http://www.nccic.org)
- National Information Center for Children with Special Needs [www.nichcy.org](http://www.nichcy.org)
  - Questions and Answers about IDEA  
(<http://www.nichcy.org/pubs/newsdig/nd21txt.htm>)

- National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (<http://www.nectac.org>)
- Legislation and Policies: Federal [Handout]
- Early Intervention Public Policy Analysis: Issues and Strategies in Personnel Preparation [http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~scpp/pdfs/Reforming/16-411\\_432.pdf](http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~scpp/pdfs/Reforming/16-411_432.pdf)

B. In Print

- DEC publications (ADA brochure, IDEA books) (<http://www.dec-sped.org/>)

## V. Closing Thoughts and Evaluation

- Never doubt that a small group...

## VI. References

- (2002). Challenges and opportunities for reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. *Young Children*, 57(5), 79.
- Child Development Resources . (1999). *Early intervention on the move*. Norge, VA: Author.
- Freeman, T., Hutter-Pishgahi, L., & Traub, E. (2000). *Welcoming all children: Creating inclusive child care*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana Institute on Disability and Community.
- The Mainstreaming Project. (1994). *Starting point: Children are children first*. San Diego, CA: The Mainstreaming Project, Graduate School of Public Health, San Diego State University, Maternal and Child Health grant #MJC-067052.
- National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). (2000). *Child care and children with special needs*. Washington, DC: Author.

*Opening Activity*

**What's Law Got to Do With It?**

**Sharing Legislation and Policies that Impact Children  
with Special Needs**

Welcome! Please complete the "Opening Activity" before we begin. Write your responses below.

- What comes to mind when you think about the topic of legislation, law and policy? Jot down the words, images, ideas or phrases that come to mind.

*Opening Activity*

**What's Law Got to Do With It?**

**Sharing Legislation and Policies that Impact Children  
with Special Needs**

Welcome! Please complete the "Opening Activity" before we begin. Write your responses below.

- What do you think comes to mind for students when they think about the topic of legislation, law and policy? Jot down the words, images, ideas or phrases that you think come to students' minds.