

June 2008

Dear Early Intervention Specialist or Early Start Administrator:

On behalf of the California Department of Education (CDE) Child Development Division, in collaboration with the Department of Developmental Services, we at WestEd would like to invite you to participate in an exciting **preview of the State's new infant/toddler program guidelines and standards documents and accompanying DVDs**. Once these materials have all been published, they will help guide the activities of infant/toddler child care throughout the statewide child care system. This special invitation to those supporting children in natural environments through California Early Start provides you with an opportunity for review of the updated statewide system and its related materials. You will have a chance to **discuss both the content and application to children with special needs of these two new important components of the CDE "Infant and Toddler Learning and Development System" with experts who contributed to the creation of these new materials, as well as to explore and network with directors of child care programs serving infants and toddlers.**

The training academy is a **two-day experience that includes** seminars, small-group work, video presentations, and other exchanges. The academy will focus on how California's new standards document, *Infant/Toddler Learning and Development Foundations (Foundations)*, and the new program guidelines, *Infant/Toddler Learning and Development Program Guidelines (Program Guidelines)*, can inform early intervention providers as they support children in natural environments. More specifically, the institute will cover the following content areas:

- The *Foundations*, including specific print and visual examples of 28 foundations organized along four domains and at three distinct points of development (8, 18 & 36 months), along with discussion of the research and evidence base for the foundations.
- The *Program Guidelines*, and how they support quality center-based care.
- Active exchanges about how the foundations and program guidelines can support collaboration with early care and education providers as they include children with disabilities or other special needs in their settings.

We will be conducting one remaining Academy in 2008:

- December 2-3 in San Luis Obispo (for Central California counties)
- Academies previously were held in Fairfield and Del Mar

Fellowships will be provided for all participants and will cover the cost of training materials, hotel accommodations (double-occupancy), and most meals. Additionally, each participant will receive one set of the *Infant/Toddler Learning and Development Program Guidelines* at the institute and the *Infant/Toddler Learning and Development Foundations*, once it becomes available. Fellowship recipients or their employers will be responsible for tuition (\$150), parking fees, some meals, and transportation to and from the training site.

Registration will be on-line and is available on the BEGINNING TOGETHER Website for both events now at www.cainclusivechildcare.org/bt/academy_app_ei.html. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Charest at 760-682-0271 or kchares@wested.org. We look forward to the opportunity to work with you.

Sincerely,

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