



The Insider

Life Span Institute at Parsons

March 2010

Patty Black Moore, Editor

KITS Staffer Receives KDEC “Award of Excellence”

Phoebe Rinkel, Technical Assistance Coordinator for the Kansas Inservice Training System (KITS), is the 2010 recipient of the Kansas Division for Early Childhood (KDEC) “Award of Excellence.” This award honors an individual who has made significant contributions to the field of early childhood special education in Kansas. KDEC is the state subdivision of the Division for Early Childhood (DEC), an international professional organization designed for professionals and families associated with infants and young children with special needs.

An early childhood special educator with 30 years experience, Phoebe works with infants and preschoolers with disabilities and their families in community not-for-profit programs, public schools, and university research projects. As the KITS Technical Assistance Coordinator, she provides consultation as well as intensive technical assistance and training to school districts and special education cooperatives building their capacity to provide effective services to preschoolers with disabilities and their families. She also serves on many state and national committees and is a frequent presenter at professional conferences.

Phoebe holds a M.S. Degree in Family and Child Development from Kansas State University with licensure in Early Childhood Disabilities and as Supervisor-Coordinator in

Special Education in the State of Kansas. Phoebe and her husband Steve live in Shawnee, and are the proud parents of a son, Max, who graduated from KU in December.



In her acceptance letter to the KDEC Board, Phoebe wrote: *I have always been proud to belong to DEC and KDEC, and I am humbled by this recognition from my esteemed colleagues. I wish I could share this honor with the extraordinary mentors, team members, children and families with whom I have had the pleasure of working for the past 30 years. I am grateful to every one of them, and to you, my colleagues and friends.*

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Just the “STATS”

Kathy Olson, Ph.D., Kansas Administrator, College of Direct Support, reports that statewide 4,315 registered learners participating in the online training program have completed 60,250 lessons.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT



Sustained Training for the Kansas Infant/Toddler System (STKITS)

This is a new two-year grant received by David P. Lindeman, Ph.D., Project Director.

The project is funded by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. The grant start date: October 1, 2009.

Project Staff: Carol Stewart, Ozawkie; Jean Kang, Lawrence; Peggy Miksch, Wamego; and Debbie Moody, Parsons.



Project Summary

The purpose of this project is to assure that Kansas tiny-k infant/toddler networks have access to critical and fundamental information, when they need it, when it is important to them, in a style conducive to adult learning, and on demand. Research informs us that adult learners need and often prefer “just in time” information and information that can be quickly transferred from the training/learning environment to the work environment. In other words, it is no longer enough to train an early intervention provider one time on how to do the crucial tasks or activities of their job. A critical feature to the implementation of knowledge is that additional

feedback and follow-up is essential to learning and that the feedback and follow-up support skill application. Additionally, training must be paired with access to information throughout the provider’s career so that the provider has the information at the ready and quickly accessible when a question, issue or problem arises.

The training components of this project will allow access at any point along the learner’s professional development and work continuum and not just at certain points in time such as entry into the system. *...continued on page 3*

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This paired with onsite support and additional resources will allow an early intervention provider to revisit the job informational/training materials, as they need it.

The goals of this project are to:

1) Expand the knowledge base and improve the skills of new and existing tiny-k infant/toddler network staff in the area of Family Service Coordination through the provision of online interactive toolkits;

2) Expand the knowledge base and improve the skills of new and existing tiny-k infant/toddler network staff in basic and foundational early intervention evidence based practices for the provision of Part C Service through online interactive training modules; and

3) Develop a network/infrastructure of professionals as a state resource for training through the further development of a train the trainer system and development of Communities of Practice around topics identified as a need by the tiny-k infant/toddler programs.

NEWS FROM THE BUSINESS OFFICE: Travel Tidbits

Spring is here and staff are increasing travel again on KU business to meetings, trainings, and conferences, both in-state and out-of-state. I have just a couple of tidbits to share with you.

- Any In-State overnight travel requires a Request for Travel to be submitted to me prior to the travel.
- Out-of-State Travel requires an Out-of-State Travel Request Form to be submitted to me before the travel, even if it is being paid by outside/other sources.
- Baggage Fees have become an expense for most airlines. It is a reimbursable expense but a receipt is required.
- An Agenda or Schedule-at-a-Glance is required to be provided with your travel reimbursement if one was available.



All KURES Travel Policies and Procedures are available on the RGS website:
www.rgs.ku.edu/forms-policies/trav_reimburse.shtml

If you have any questions or problems, please contact me at 620-421-6550 ext.1897.

Thank you,
Tammy Schoenhofer

STAFF PROFILE

Anna “Katey” Schmidt

Graduate Assistant

M.A., Human Development

As a student nearing completion of a Ph.D. in the Department of Applied Behavioral Science, I have had the good fortune to interact with many of the research faculty at the KU Life Span Institute. I began my studies with Dr. Debra Kamps and Dr. Charles Greenwood at Juniper Gardens Children’s Project. While there, I was a Graduate Research Assistant with *The Center for Early Intervention for Reading and Behavior* and completed my master’s thesis, *The Effects of a Class-Wide Intervention on Group and Individual Behavior in an Urban First-Grade Classroom*. Lengthy title aside, this was an interesting project that provided some of the pilot data for Dr. Kamps, Dr. Howard Wills, and Dr. Greenwood’s *Class-Wide Function-Based Intervention Teams* that is currently underway at JGCP.

After completing my master’s, I began working with Dr. Greg Hanley as a Graduate Teaching Assistant in the Edna A. Hill Child Development Center. I loved working with children and their families in the Educare classrooms and teaching Early Childhood practicum students. This experience allowed me to hone my supervisory and teaching skills for both adults and children. As it turns out, keeping 17 four-year-olds engaged at Circle Time is harder than instructing undergraduates! Dr. Hanley also presented me with the opportunity to conduct single-subject research in an experimental setting. Recently, my first publication as primary author came out in the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*. In that study, Dr. Hanley and I continued research



originally conducted by Dr. Jeff Tiger who found children prefer the opportunity to choose. Our study strengthened Dr. Tiger’s findings by showing that children prefer to choose even when choosing results in items that are not qualitatively or quantitatively different from those that someone chooses for them, and that this preference persists even when the items available are less-preferred. This finding is probably something that anyone who knows children could tell you, but we were excited to show it experimentally.

For the past two years, I have worked with Dr. Kate Saunders on her *Recombinative Generalization of within Syllable Units in MR* project in Lawrence. In collaboration with Dr. Nancy Brady, we conducted a study using computerized instructional programming to teach adults with intellectual disabilities and low speech intelligibility to select the first letter in spoken words. This phonemic awareness skill is a prerequisite for alphabet cueing, a common augmentative communication method. We are currently examining application of the skills our participants have acquired. I have thoroughly enjoyed conducting this research and am excited that I will soon be defending these studies as my dissertation. Dr. Saunders, Dr. Brady, and Dr. Joe Spradlin have assisted me greatly in this project and in the process have broadened my understanding of behavior analysis, stimulus control, reading and phonemic awareness, speech and language, and instructional programming.

As my time as a graduate student at KU draws to a close, I recognize that I have had an unusual number of opportunities to work with many talented researchers. For that, I am grateful! I am newly married and have adjusted my career plans so I can remain in Lawrence. I was pleased to accept a position as an Autism Behavior Consultant for Lawrence Public Schools, and I hope to maintain my KU connections and possibly begin collaborative research in a new setting.

PRESENTATIONS

- Cook, K., & Rinkel, P. (2010, February). *Pivotal response treatment: Evidence-based practice for young children with autism (Part 1)*. Presentation at Kansas Division for Early Childhood Conference, Wichita, KS.
- Espe-Sherwindt, M. (2010, February). *Meeting the challenges: The myths and realities about parents with intellectual disabilities*. Presentation at Kansas Division for Early Childhood Conference, Wichita, KS.
- Espe-Sherwindt, M. (2010, February). *Meeting the challenges: Evidence-based strategies for working with parents with intellectual disabilities*. Presentation at Kansas Division for Early Childhood Conference, Wichita, KS.
- Espe-Sherwindt, M. (2010, February). *Meeting the challenges: Assessing your program's readiness to work with parents with intellectual disabilities*. Presentation at Kansas Division for Early Childhood Conference, Wichita, KS.
- Hornback, M. (2009, December). *Building community partnerships for preschool programs*. Round table discussion at Shawnee Mission, KS.
- Hornback, M. (2010, January). *Early childhood least restrictive environment*. Inservice training at Liberal, KS.
- Hornback, M. (2010, February). *Early childhood least restrictive environment*. Inservice training at Liberal, KS.
- Hornback, M., Miksch, P., & Rinkel, P. (2010, February). *Early childhood outcomes training*. Regional training at Hays, KS.
- Hornback, M., Miksch, P., Rinkel, P., & Goosen, M. (2010, March). *Early childhood outcomes training*. Regional training at Topeka, KS.
- Major, S. (2010, March). *Applied Behavior Analysis*. Presentation to the Family Resource Center Autism Conference, Pittsburg, KS.
- Province, P., Broyles, L., & Hornback, M. (2010, February). *All teachers, all children, blended funding, blended classrooms: From dream to reality*. Presentation at Kansas Division for Early Childhood Conference, Wichita, KS.
- Rinkel, P. (2010, January). *A problem solving process for evaluating AEPS use*. Inservice at Kansas City, KS.
- Rinkel, P. (2010, January). *Using curriculum based assessment for progress monitoring: Part 1*. Inservice at Overland Park, KS.
- Rinkel, P. (2010, January). *Using curriculum based assessment for progress monitoring: Part 2*. Inservice at Overland Park, KS.
- Rinkel, P. (2010, February). *Early childhood outcomes data*. Inservice at Overland Park, KS.
- Rinkel, P. (2010, February). *Review of goals*. Inservice at Kansas City, KS.
- Rinkel, P. (2010, February). *Using AEPS goals that are both compliant and meaningful*. Inservice at Kansas City, KS.
- Rinkel, P., & Cook, K. (2010, February). *Pivotal response treatment: Evidence-based practice for young children with autism (Part 2)*. Presentation at Kansas Division for Early Childhood Conference, Wichita, KS.
- Sack, S. (2010, February). *Exploring Strategies and Solutions: AT Reuse and Emergency Preparation*. Panel facilitator, National Leadership Summit on Emergency Management and Assistive Technology Reutilization, Washington, D.C.

PRESENTATIONS

- Sack, S. (2010, February). *Key Elements and Issues in AT Reuse as a Component in Emergency Management*. Invited presentation to the National Leadership Summit on Emergency Management and Assistive Technology Reutilization, Washington, D.C.
- Sack, S. (2010, March). *Assisting Individuals Who Have Had Amputation in Acquiring Assistive Technology and Durable Medical Equipment*. Invited presentation to the Southeast Kansas Amputee Support Group, Fort Scott, KS.
- Saunders, K. J. (2010, January 24). *The Science and Practice of Discrete-Trial Training: Why some teaching procedures are more effective than others*. Invited presentation to the 2010 Association of Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) Autism Conference, Chicago, IL.
- Smith, T., Bigler, K., Nelson-Metzger, D., Weiler, J., Bowman, D., Simmons, S., & Hoffmeier, S. (2010, January). *Part C regional meeting*. Statewide presentation via ITV at Chanute, Wichita, Hays, Lawrence, Salina, Dodge City, and Topeka, KS.
- Stremel Thomas, K. (2010, March 1). *Examining the language environment of children who are deaf-blind with cochlear implants*. Presentation to the 2010 Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Conference, Chicago, Ill.
- Williams, D. C. (2010, January 15). *Understanding Problem Behaviors and Transitions Between Activities: Bench and bedside translational research*. Invited presentation to the 2009-1010 Colloquium Series at the Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center, Department of Psychiatry, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Waltham, MA.
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PUBLICATIONS

- Anderson, C. M., Doughty, Shannon S., Doughty, Adam H., Williams, Dean C., & Saunders, Kathryn J. (in press). Evaluation of stimulus control over a communication response as an intervention for stereotypical responding. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*.
- Saunders, Kathryn J., & Hayashi, Yusuke. (in press). In evaluating the effectiveness of procedures for teaching peer imitation, the preexisting skills of participants are critical. *Evidence-Based Communication Assessment and Intervention*.
- Saunders, Kathryn J. (in press). A stimulus control analysis of early reading skills. In W. Fisher, C. Piazza, & H. Roane (Eds.), *Handbook of Applied Behavior Analysis*.
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PROJECT NEWS

Muriel Saunders reports that the NIDRR grant entitled *Weight Loss by Individuals with Physical Disabilities* has two new employees, Mary Steinbrock and Samuel Gegen. Both live in Wichita and their office will be located in the Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation complex.

STAFF PROFILE



Marguerite “Margy” Hornback

Technical Assistance Specialist
Ed.D., Special Education
University of Kansas

In January, 2010, Margy Hornback celebrated her 40th year anniversary as an educator in Kansas. Dr. Hornback’s varied experiences in education are essential to the work she does today as a Technical Assistance Specialist for the Kansas Inservice Training System (KITS). KITS is a training and resource system for early intervention networks and early childhood special education programs throughout Kansas.

The goal of Margy’s technical assistance is to provide quality, inclusive early childhood programs to improve positive outcomes for all children. Collaboration among existing community early childhood programs ensures

the efficient use of resources to support the provision of quality early childhood programs.

She says, “You can’t wait until kindergarten for kids to be successful.”

When asked what she likes about her work, Margy replies, “I like everything about what I do. I never get bored. I work as part of multiple and diverse teams (KITS team, school teams, state teams, community teams, professional

development teams, early childhood teams). Every day is something different to anticipate and enjoy. Every day is a learning opportunity that builds on my past experiences. What I do impacts service delivery systems and children and their families. That is what it is all about—improving positive outcomes for children and increasing opportunities for meaningful family engagement in that process.”

Margy offers this advice, “Never stop learning and never be afraid to move out of your comfort zone and take on new challenges. That is how you keep growing personally and professionally. That is how you make a difference.”

Growing up in Parsons, Margy has strong ties to the community. She and her husband have two sons and four grandchildren and live in Burrton, KS. In the picture, Margy sits in their 1969 Camaro that her husband, Bob, races in the NHRA Division 5 ET Sportsman Series. Racing is a family affair.

STAFF NEWS

Yusuke Hayashi was selected to participate in the 2010 Interdisciplinary Training Conference in Developmental Disabilities in Annapolis, MD based on his distinguished record of scholarly achievement. Additionally, Dr. Hayashi was awarded a \$750 Travel Grant to underwrite his travel and related costs of the March 16 conference.

National Leadership Summit on Emergency Management and Assistive Technology Reutilization

Sara Sack, Project Director of Assistive Technology for Kansans, Kansas Equipment Exchange, and other grants, was one of forty-three participants invited to attend the National Leadership Summit on Emergency Management and Assistive Technology Reutilization held in Washington, D.C. on February 23-24, 2010. Individuals representing the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Administration on Children and Families, Administration on Developmental Disabilities, Rehabilitation Services Administration, American Red Cross,

Argonne Laboratories, National Organization on Disability, Department of Agriculture, Deaf Link, Wireless Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center, and others met to address the assistive technology and durable medical equipment needs of people in disaster preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation. Summit members worked to identify infrastructure needed to develop and implement a rapid response system and a sustainable network to meet the technology needs of people in disaster planning and recovery.

Dr. Sack gave an invited presentation *Key Elements and Issues in AT Reuse as a Component in Emergency Management*. She also served as a facilitator for a panel on *Exploring Strategies and Solutions: AT Reuse and Emergency Preparation*.

PROJECT NEWS

ATK works with KRS and RCBVI to expand vision solutions

Staff from **Assistive Technology for Kansans (ATK)** have been working with Kansas Rehabilitation Services (KRS) and staff from the Rehabilitation Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (RCBVI) to demonstrate and

distribute Low Vision technology. With the closure of the Rehabilitation Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Topeka on July 1, 2010, additional low vision technology such as CCTVs, video magnifiers, talking timers / watches and screen magnification technology from the Center will be tracked and assigned through ATK. This additional inventory will be disseminated through the five regional Assistive Technology Access Sites of the statewide assistive technology program, Assistive Technology for Kansans.

STAFF NEWS

Kathy Olson has been invited to present a preconference symposium, *The NADD Competency-Based Dual Diagnosis Certification Program*, at the NADD 2010 International Congress and Exhibit Show:

Innovations and Interventions (MH/IDD) in Toronto, Canada on April 14th. NADD is an association for persons with developmental disabilities and mental health needs. The NADD Competency-Based Dual Diagnosis Certification Program will be a gold standard that can be used in all states and will assist states and localities in decision making about services, contracting, funding, and infrastructure. Dr. Olson is the Chair of the Direct Care Staff Subcommittee.

NEW GRANT AWARD ANNOUNCED

Richard and Muriel Saunders received a new one-year contract, *Closing the Loop: Exploring Best Practices in Healthy Athletes Referral Follow-up*, funded by Special Olympics International that began January 15, 2010.

At Special Olympics Summer Games across the US, athletes will have the opportunity to attend a free Special Smiles (dental) screening under the Healthy Athletes® program. At each screening, some of the athletes are referred for further dental treatment outside the screening program. Many of the state Special Olympics

Programs have their own unique ways of touching base with the athlete or athlete's caregivers shortly after the screenings to remind them about the referral.

Research staff will attend about a dozen of the screenings in April, May, and June to learn who has been referred and to obtain their contact information. In the fall, the project staff will follow-up by telephone with those athletes and/or their parent, guardian or other individual who would likely be involved in assisting the athlete to obtain treatment. The purposes of the project are to determine which of the state reminder methods are the most effective and to share these results with all the states.

Robert Beach, KCKCC, Presents Accessible Documents Workshop

Robert Beach, Assistive Technology Specialist, Kansas City Kansas Community College, presented his workshop, Accessible Documents on March 15, 2010 in the Media Studio at the Kansas University Center on Disabilities. Robert demonstrated how a properly "structured" document can be efficiently converted into other formats, saving staff time and delivering a more useable document. We learned "styles" are a yes and to just say no to a "text box" to improve accessibility.

The audience included Life Span Institute at Parsons staff (Assistive Technology for Kansans program, Family Care Treatment project, Early



Childhood projects, Children who are Deaf-Blind project, College of Direct Support project, website development staff, IT support staff, and administrative staff) as well as staff from the Parsons State Hospital & Training Center and the Southeast Kansas AT Access Site. Co-sponsored by Assistive Technology for Kansans and the Life Span Institute at Parsons.

In the picture from left, Sara Sack and Sheila Simmons (ATK), and Robert Beach.

Visit the Life Span Institute (LSI) at Parsons website at <http://www.parsons.lsi.ku.edu>