



INDIANA INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY AND COMMUNITY
EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

News & Resources

June 29, 2021



Child Impact Project Launch

We are excited to share the launch of the [Child Impact Project Website: A Roadmap to Quality Special Education Services for Young Children](#). The Early Childhood Center, part of Indiana University's Institute on Disability and Community, developed this website in partnership with the Indiana Department of Education's Office of Special Education. Its purpose is two-fold:

1. to support districts to address data informed inequities regarding special education service provision for young children with disabilities and
2. to provide guidance on making effective sustainable changes that increase child outcomes.

This roadmap will assist your district to:

- Choose a destination by outlining Inclusion (3-5 years) and Literacy (3-8 years) best practices
- Follow a step by step four-stage process of exploring, planning, initiating and expanding improvements with supplemental resources, data dashboards, handouts, and meeting template
- Embark on your journey independently or supported by the Early Childhood Center's technical assistance

Please visit the [Child Impact Project website](#) to learn more and contact Sally Reed Crawford with your questions at sreedcra@iu.edu.

2021 Virtual First Steps Conference A Success

The Early Childhood Center planned, hosted, and facilitated a statewide early intervention conference on behalf of the [Indiana First Steps](#) system. First Steps provides services for families of young children ages 0-3 with developmental disabilities or delays. The conference was virtual and was a tremendous success. There were 653 active participants and 84 speakers. Topics ranged from evidence-based family centered practices to implicit bias to inclusion to literacy. Networking sessions and a family track were also provided and well-attended. The conference keynote was provided by storyteller and comedian, Bethany Van Delft, who spoke about her experiences in the early intervention system with her daughter, who has Down Syndrome. Hear more about Bethany Van Delt in [her video about Down Syndrome](#). Special thanks to our sponsors Anthem, DASi, Golden Steps ABA, INARF, Indiana Deaf-Blind Services, Riley Children's Health, and The Arc of Indiana.

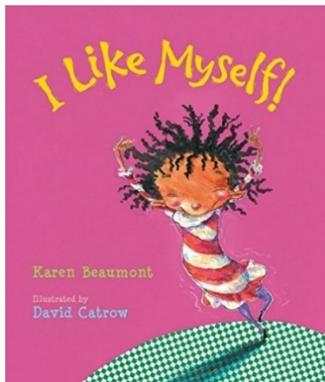


Ballard Elected Indiana DEC Member At Large

Janet Ballard has been elected to the IN-DEC board as a member at large. Her term will begin July 1, 2021. She is looking forward to using her 29 years of early childhood experience to promote positive change to the field. The Indiana Division for Early Childhood is a non-profit, promoting policies and advancing evidence-based practices that support families and enhance the optimal development of young children (0-8) who have or are at risk for developmental delays and disabilities in Indiana.

Technical Assistance for New Inclusive Classrooms

The Early Childhood Center is engaged in providing technical assistance to a northern Indiana school district around the vision of creating an effective, fully inclusive preschool program. Using implementation science, we have completed the exploration phase and are currently beginning to plan their initiative with them for the piloting of two classrooms to be put into place this coming school year.



How Diverse is Your Library?

Here are some great books for your early childhood library:

[A Chair for My Mother](#) by Vera B. Williams

[I like Myself!](#) By Karen Beaumont in English and in [Spanish](#)

[Max and the Tag Along Moon](#) by Floyd Cooper

[My Heart Fills with Happiness](#) by Monique Gray Smith in

[English with Cree](#), [Spanish](#), and [French!](#)

Around the Watercooler at ECC

Katie - I've been thinking about how families of children with disabilities make hard decisions about schools, placement, services, etc. I've spoken with a lot of families recently who felt lost about how to make choices when transitioning from one set of services to another. If you work with families, do you ask what their hopes and dreams are for their children? If families can think about what they want and don't want when their child is older, it may help them to make decisions that will lead them in that direction. Do you share multiple options, even if you have an opinion about which you think might be best? Do you provide information about what inclusion means, even if the local school district doesn't usually offer inclusive services? Families should know their options. [Here is a website with a simple explanation of inclusion.](#) Here are [some questions families might ask](#) if they are seeking inclusive settings.

Lynne - There's been a lot of talk about the importance of providing antiracist early childhood education, but you might be wondering what antiracist teaching strategies look like in the classroom. [This film](#) provides some concrete examples with reflective commentary from the practitioners providing the antiracist experiences.