

MNDEC Newsletter <http://www.mndec.org/>

Minnesota Division of Early Childhood

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Volume 7 Issue 2

President's message

Michele Kvikstad, MNDEC President, Bloomington Public Schools



Hello Colleagues,

What a start to a school year. Whether you are new to teaching or have been in the profession for several years, I believe we can all agree that this fall has been unprecedented. Our Schools and Early Childhood Programs have been faced with providing education during a global pandemic and you have all risen to the challenge.

As I spend time with Early Childhood staff across Minnesota, the common goal of providing high-quality services to our diverse populations with unique needs unites us. We have adapted our craft and learned new ways to support students and families. There have been challenges and we are all continuing to work through how to best serve our students and families. The MN Department of Education has put together a website for Special Education COVID-19 Resource. Our State's [MN Centers of Excellence](#) continues to provide professional development support and guidance for high-quality programs and services. The Early Childhood Technical Assistance [Center](#) has added a remote service delivery and distance learning resource page that is updated regularly with effective ways to serve young children with developmental disabilities at home and with their families.

Our MN DEC Membership is strong. With one of the largest subdivision memberships in the country, Minnesota continues to be a leader in Early Childhood. When you are a member of MN DEC you are actively contributing to the policies and practices that support families and enhance the optimal development of young children. <https://www.dec-sped.org/>

Your long days and extra hours on the weekends make a difference. I know you are courageously showing up for your programs as well as your own families. Please know the moments you make turn into movements that impact children and families for a lifetime. You are valued and the expertise you provide is priceless. Take time for yourself and be well my friends.

Together we're better,

Michele

State Updates

Carol Maliszewski, ECSE Specialist/MCCC/Workforce



Special Education COVID-19 Resources

MN COE Distance Learning website

Carol

Thank you from MNDEC Board

Thanks for all you are doing to provide equitable early childhood special education services and a sense of normalcy to the lives of the young children and families you serve. MNDEC has sent you a mask in recognition of the risks you face on a daily basis and a reminder to keep yourselves safe and healthy so you can continue the great work you are doing. Wishing you well, MN DEC



Higher Education

Aaron Deris, MN DEC secretary, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Research study - <https://www.dec-sped.org/single-post/call-for-participants-teaching-experiences-and-beliefs-during-the-covid-19-pandemic>

Summer institute will be virtual- Plan for virtual conference for 2 days during 3rd week of June 2021, exact dates yet to be determined.

Aaron



National DEC

January 21—January 29, 2021. The Division for Early Childhood's 36th Annual International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs & Their Families is a virtual event! <https://www.deconference.org/>

News, Events and Announcements

Emilie Levinson, St. Paul Public Schools, MN DEC Board Member at Large

Mini grants are an excellent way for practitioners to receive additional funds to address an area of student need identified by classroom/student data. Thanks to all the team who have submitted applications and congratulation to the teams awarded grants. Applications due February 15, 2021.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/10nVWpQMool8nAMX5YyzmvoGZRn6GgoH8psoGPJMds_o/edit?usp=sharing

Technology

Judy Swett, Early Childhood Coordinator PACER Center

The staff of the PACER Simon Technology Center may be working remotely, but they are still here to help! Pacer can provide personalized support for families, educators, and individuals of all ages through virtual assistive technology consultations. For more information on submitting an application for a consultation go to: <https://www.pacer.org/stc/consultations/> or forward and share with parents and professionals who are interested in assistive technology support. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Pacer by email at stc@pacer.org or by phone at 952-838-9000.

Judy

Article Summary

Liz Barnett, MA, CCC-SLP, MN DEC newsletter editor, website manager

Members of DEC receive the ***Journal of Early Intervention*** and the magazine ***Young Exceptional Children*** and have access to professional development opportunities in webinars, conferences, and learning decks, as well as timely recommendations to articles and resources specifically relevant to young children and their families.

Dana Kamara, Katherine Walton, and Andrea N. Witwer explore “Socioemotional and Autism Spectrum Disorder Screening for Toddlers in Early Intervention: Agreement among Measures” The Journal of Early Intervention, Volume 42, number 4, December 2020, pages 359–380. They compare common measures of socioemotional functioning: The Ages and Stages Questionnaires: Social-Emotional (ASQ-SE, first edition) the Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL) and the Brief Infant Toddler Social-Emotional Assessment (BITSEA). They concluded that overall the measures did not have substantial agreement among all measures but there was substantial agreement between the ASQ-SE and the BITSEA and moderate agreement between the ASQ:SE and the CBCL, and fair agreement between the BITSEA and the CBCL. They also looked at agreement among measures in terms of specificity for ASD screening in hopes of reducing the testing burden on families. For this, they used comparison to the Modified checklist for Autism in Toddlers, Revised with Follow-up (M-CHAT-R/F). They found the BITSEA had substantial agreement with the M-CHAT-R/F. They recommend further study in larger, more diverse samples. They conclude there is a continued need to evaluate the sensitivity and specificity of these tools.

Liz

Job Postings

Be sure to check out MNDEC's [Job Postings webpage](#) To have a Job posted on our website- please complete the linked document- <http://goo.gl/4ioFOy> NOTE- after completing the form, you must email "info@mndec.org" with the subject line, "job posting" and state you have submitted a job.

Do you have an ECSE question?

The Minnesota Department of Education Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) leadership team has a general mail address that can be used to submit any ECSE question, birth to five. The emails will be answered in a timely manner by members of this team. Email questions to: mde.ecse@state.mn.us

About the MN DEC The Minnesota Division for Early Childhood (MN DEC) is a statewide membership organization for those who work with or on behalf of young children with disabilities and other special needs.

Become a DEC member

To become a member of the Division for Early Childhood (DEC) you first need to become a member of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) and choose DEC as one of CEC's Special Interest Divisions.

<https://www.dec-sped.org/become-a-member>

Professional Organizations

The Division for Early Childhood (DEC) <http://www.dec-sped.org>

Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) <http://www.cec.sped.org>

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) <http://www.naeyc.org>

Resources

***Covid-19 related:**

***Resources to Support Early Intervention & Early Childhood Special Education during COVID-19**

<https://www.dec-sped.org/covid-19>

***ECTA Center Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)** <https://ectacenter.org/topics/disaster/coronavirus.asp>

***Covid-19 : Remote Service Delivery and Distance Learning** <https://ectacenter.org/topics/disaster/tele-intervention.asp>

***The Early Childhood Personnel Center Covid-19 resources** for Part C, preschool, IHE Faculty and families.

https://ecpcta.org/covid-19-resources/?mc_cid=8ed289f195&mc_eid=9733c11e80

Resources continued on next page

Resources *continued from previous page*

Looking for a job in ECSE? <http://www.mndec.org/jobs.html>

Prospective Employer? Complete the document to post on MN DEC's website:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1XPHA15yLJWaLeTMKe5TZmLkgerQFLTr1Asx-s3wSipM/viewform>

Center on Developing Child: <https://developingchild.harvard.edu/contact/>

Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL)

<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/csefel/>

Division for Early Childhood Recommended Practices: <https://www.dec-sped.org/dec-recommended-practices>

Early Childhood Technical Assistance (ECTA) Products to support the use of the DEC Recommended Practices

<http://ectacenter.org/decrp/>

Early Childhood Technical Assistance (ECTA) Resources to support the Inclusion of Young Children with Disabilities <http://ectacenter.org/topics/inclusion/default.asp>

Faculty Finds: <http://eepurl.com/ggHi3j>

Head Start Center for Inclusion <http://depts.washington.edu/hscenter/>

Help Me Grow <http://www.helpmegrowmn.org/> An interagency initiative of the State of Minnesota (Department of Education, Department of Health and Department of Human Services) partnering with all local service agencies.

Minnesota Centers of Excellence The statewide professional development system for early childhood special education (ECSE). Professional Development Facilitators (PDF) in each of the state's eight economic development regions work to connect, support and empower local leaders to build capacity. Through these joint efforts, young children and their families are accessing and benefiting from high-quality programs and services throughout the state. <https://www.mncoe.org/>

Minnesota ECSE Licensure Programs <https://sites.google.com/a/umn.edu/mn-ecse-programs/>

National Implementation Research Network (NIRN) <http://nirn.fpg.unc.edu/> Go to their website and you will find a resource titled [Implementation Drivers: Assessing Best Practices](#) .

PACER's Early Childhood website <http://www.pacer.org/ec/>

Technical Assistance Center on Social Emotional Intervention for Young Children (TACSEI)

<http://www.challengingbehavior.org/>

Technical Assistance Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Effective School-wide Interventions and Supports <http://www.pbis.org/>

ZERO TO THREE Journal Stay current on best practices and the latest knowledge about early childhood development and your work with children and families.. Practical advice and professional development tools. Print or digital versions. <https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/series/zero-to-three-journal>

Please do not forget to follow us:

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Minnesota-DEC/132315643458975?v=wall>

Twitter https://twitter.com/mndec_info

MNDEC is Minnesota's Chapter of The Division For Early Childhood

