

Spring Issue

April/ May 2009

Early Intervention Nova Scotia Newsletter

Useful Websites...

www.complexchild.com

www.iwk.nshealth.ca

(then click "care services", then "psychology", then "psychology for you")

Please note that EINS will now provide \$50 for any caregiver wishing to attend a "Psychology for You" session at the IWK, or via telehealth. Contact your EI for details on how to apply for EINS conference funding!!

Check inside for:

Barb Boiduk Award info.

Financial Information for Parents

ECIANS update

AGM info and lots more!

**EINS, 14 Court Street, Suite 200, Unit 129, Truro, NS,
B2N 3H7**

Update from Our Board Chair

Dear EINS Members,

The grass on my lawn and the leaves on my trees give testament that spring is here. They also give testament to hope. Only a few short weeks ago I was hoping for spring and now it is here. As early interventionists you also give testament to hope. Hope for the development of a family's full potential.

I was sorry to miss the March 28th meeting. I am; however, delighted with the results of the Hay Group evaluation. I am less delighted with the timing but I do believe that good can come from any situation; it will be interesting to see how this situation unfolds. The Hay Report gives us solid evidence for what you have known for years; Early Interventionists are underpaid. It is exciting to think of the road of advocacy that lies ahead. I am sure that we will meet many interesting people and have some interesting conversations.

Our relationship with the Nova Scotia Credit Unions Charitable Foundation (NSCUCF) continues to develop and evolve. Anne Stephaniuk, the executive director of NSCUCF, is committed to Early Intervention and continues to find new ways to promote our relationship to the local Credit Unions. It is our hope that we will see each of you develop a relationship with the Credit Union in your area. We will need to take Anne's lead in this area as not all Credit Unions participate in NSCUCF at the same level. Our PR committee continues to work closely with Anne and NSCUCF. We look forward to many joint ventures and photo opportunities.

It is our plan to give you a copy of the first edition of the procedure manual at our AGM on June 12th. Like the personnel policy the procedure manual will be a living documents with revisions reviewed and presented at EINS' AGM.

Early in 2009 we welcomed Nick Phillips to the position of Special Needs Policy and Program Development Coordinator at the Department of Community Services. We look forward to developing a strong partnership with Nick as we move toward implementation of the Hay Group recommendations.

This will be my last letter to you as Chair of EINS. It has been an honor and an incredible learning experience to serve as your Chair. I will be hanging around as past chair so you haven't seen the end of me yet.

Sincerely,
Brenda Putnam
Chair EINS

Why We Love Children

An exasperated mother, whose son was always getting into trouble, finally asked him "How do you expect to get into Heaven?" The boy thought it over and said "Well, I'll run in and out and in and out and keep slamming the door until Saint Peter says "For God's Sake Dylan, come in or stay out!"

When I was 6 months pregnant with my third child, my 3 year old came into the bathroom as I was preparing to get in the shower. She said "Mommy, you're getting fat." I replied, "Yes Honey, remember, Mommy has a baby growing in her tummy." "I know" she replied, "but what's growing in your butt?"

One summer evening during a violent thunderstorm, little Jesse asked his Mom with a trembling voice if she could sleep in his room. "I can't" replied the Mom, "I have to sleep in Daddy's room." A long silence was broken at last by his little shaky voice "The big sissy."

BARBARA BOIDUK AWARD

Who do you know . . . ? who has a unique heart & voice for families and children ? who is always going that extra mile for families and children ? EINS wants to know.....The Barbara Boiduk Award is presented annually by Early Intervention Nova Scotia to the individual who has demonstrated extraordinary contribution of heart and voice in service to families and children. Please submit a short note describing the person you are nominating and how they use their voice and heart in encouraging, supporting families and empowering parents of young children.

Please note: this nomination does not have to be someone in the EINS community. It can be anyone with a strong commitment to families and children.

Name: _____ Agency/Affiliation: _____

Note: _____

Nominated by: _____ Contact info: _____

Please, reply by e-mail or fax to Donna Dexter email donnadexter@eastlink.ca fax (902) 356-2307

Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network (PLAN) is a non-profit organization, established in 1989 by and for families committed to future planning and securing a good life for their relative with a disability. www.plan.ca

Financial Info. for Parents

Antigonish Guysborough Early Childhood Intervention Program partnered with business students from St. Francis Xavier Service Learning Program . The students created two booklets of financial resources for parents of children with special needs. The information is presented in a user friendly fashion and covers resources available within Antigonish and Guysborough counties and provincially. The booklets will be shared with parents in the program locally

and across the province.

If anyone would like a copy of the booklets, please contact the Early Intervention program at 863-2298. Shown from back left: Dr. Mary Oxner and Service Learning students: Mike Wood, Jennifer Vanderlinden and Laura Proctor, Brenda MacInnis, Executive Director, AGEICIP. Shown from front left: students Jill Xin Gao, Luying Zhang and Mengtao Wang, Lan Xu.



HOMEMADE OREO COOKIES

1 devil's food cake mix
1/2 c. shortening
2 eggs

Mix the above ingredients together. Roll the dough into dime-sized balls and place on a cookie sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 8 minutes. Cool cookies.

FROSTING:

8 oz. cream cheese
1/2 square butter
2 tsp. vanilla
2 to 4 c. powdered sugar

Mix all of frosting ingredients until smooth. Frost backs of cookies and place together to make sandwich cookie.

THE EDUCATION OF ASHIF JAFFER

University Student with Down Syndrome

Every Wednesday night, at 6:00 pm, Ashif Jaffer heads out to Toronto's Ryerson University, satchel in hand and makes his way to a seminar classroom. By his very presence in that classroom, he is breaking new ground. Ashif Jaffer has Down Syndrome.

Until not so long ago, the idea of a student with Down Syndrome in a university was unthinkable. After all, how could a person with an intellectual disability succeed or belong in a place built for higher learning? Aren't universities for smart people?

The gates to the universities have widened considerably, to include people with a wide range of physical and learning disabilities. And schools provide all kinds of accommodation to make that possible.

But intellectual disabilities present a conundrum.

For years now, some university and colleges have welcomed people with Down Syndrome - to audit individual courses or participate in special programs.

Ashif Jaffer wants to change that. He's now registered in one course. But his dream - and his mother's dream - is for a full university education and the degree that goes with it. Ashif's story is about testing limits - his own and the university's.

Alisa Siegel's documentary is called "The Education of Ashif Jaffer. Find it on cbc.ca/thesundayedition/

Community Champions Network- Adoption Supports June 8, 12 and 15, 2009 Nova Scotia

Please join us for a community dialogue on Post Adoption Supports

Monday June 8 Central Region Forum

Halifax Debra Reynolds Banting
St. Andrew's Community Centre
banting.reynolds@ns.sympatico.ca
6955 Bayers Road 422-1290
6:30-8:30 PM

Friday June 12 Western Region Forum

Kentville Shannon MacLeod
Kings District Office macleosl@gov.ns.ca
76 River Street 678-5114
6:30-8:30 PM

Monday June 15 Eastern Region Forum

Sydney Helen Perez
Children's Aid Society, CTC Building
perezha@gov.ns.ca
1030 Upper Prince Street 1-800-263-8300
10:00 am-12:00 PM

Monday June 15 Northern Region Forum

Antigonish Mary Ann Burke
Super Store Community Room
jimburke@ns.sympatico.ca
26 Market Street 885-8679

6:30-8:30 PM

Community Forum Schedule
Please RSVP to attend a forum
in your area!

What is the Community Champions Network?

In 2006, Jockey International began partnering with the North American Council for Adoptable Children (NACAC), a nationally recognized leader in post-adoption services, to develop the Community Champions Network. Now in its fourth year, the network of community-based coalitions has helped train and empower close to 1,000 informed and inspired advocates for post-adoption services for foster and adoptive families in communities across

North America. Teams of adoption professionals and adoptive parents co-lead the community coalition. NACAC, together with the top experts in the field, offers training, best practice models, research and more to these teams as they develop, advocate for and implement and/or expand effective post adoption services in their communities.

Facilitated by: North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) in partnership with: Jockey International and its Jockey Being Family™ initiative.

Caroline Gallop Receives Award of Merit

Nova Scotia Council of the
Family Award to Recognize
Outstanding Board
Members of Member
Agencies and
Organizations

Established in 1996, the Award of Merit recognizes the special efforts of board members who have provided outstanding contributions to their member agencies or organizations.

As volunteers, the recipients of the Award have:

- 1) provided vision or guidance
- 2) faced tough times with success and positive problem solving
- 3) pitched in to get a job done

- 4) participated in special project work
- 5) provided several years of board service

Early Intervention Nova Scotia was proud to nominate Caroline for this award and again would like to thank her for all of the years of hard work and dedication she spent with us.

Thanks Caroline and Congratulations!!

Congratulations to Nancy Trefry, Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper for Southwest Early Childhood Intervention (Yarmouth County), on the birth of her 1st grandson, Carter!



The Paradoxical Commandments
by Dr. Kent M. Keith

People are illogical, unreasonable, and self-centered. Love them anyway.

If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish ulterior motives. Do good anyway.

If you are successful, you win false friends and true enemies. Succeed anyway.

The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.

Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable. Be honest and frank anyway.

The biggest men and women with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest men and women with the smallest minds. Think big anyway.

People favor underdogs but follow only top dogs. Fight for a few underdogs anyway.

What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight. Build anyway.

People really need help but may attack you if you do help them. Help people anyway.

Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth. Give the world the best you have anyway.

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Kent M. Keith 1968, renewed 2001



Early Childhood Interventionists Association of Nova Scotia

Hello from ECIANS (the Early Childhood Interventionists Association of Nova Scotia), the professional association for Early Interventionists in the province. Our mission is to provide leadership to develop and ensure universal policies, standards, and guidelines to promote professionalism and best practices in early intervention programs throughout Nova Scotia. Membership is open to anyone who has been employed as an early interventionist with a provincial Early Intervention Program for one year.

Annual membership fees are \$50 and include membership card, poster of the ECIANS Code of Ethics, access to/discounted rates at ECIANS annual conferences, and website access for information sharing.

ECIANS will be holding its 3rd AGM on Friday May 22nd, 2009 from 12 noon until 3 pm at the Elmsdale Superstore Community Room. Lunch is provided and new members are welcome. Guest speaker will be Michelle Boudreau, sharing the recent research from the Understanding the Early Years - Halifax Project. For details visit www.ecians.ca .RSVP to pmorse@progresscentre.com by Wed. May 20th. Come and join us for an afternoon of information sharing and networking.

Tricia Morse

Chair, ECIANS

Hold This Date!

EINS will hold it's AGM on June 12th at the Quality Inn in Halifax (Kearney Lake Rd.). Morning session will start at 10am.

Our guest speaker will be Isabel den Heyer who will speak about "Early Childhood Programs in First Nation Communities in Nova Scotia". There will be other presentations throughout the morning, lunch will be provided, followed by the AGM after lunch. Hope to see you there!!

Program (\$25) and individual memberships (\$5) will be renewed at that time so please bring your cash or cheques with you.

EINS PR items will also be available for those interested (see back page).



There will be a Non-Violent Crisis Intervention Training workshop June 11th at IHSE- 60 Lorne St., Truro (day before our AGM).

Cost is \$90 per person including snacks and lunch. Time 9-5.

Wear comfortable clothing and shoes.

Brenda Putnam Instructor

Pre - register with Brenda 893-3342 or putnamb@inst-hse.ca

EINS is looking for new Board members!!

If you are from the Western Region of our province and currently employed by an EI Program, or if you are a parent currently receiving EI service anywhere in NS, we would love for you to join our board!! Meetings take place quarterly on Saturday from 10-2. Lunch and mileage expenses are covered.

If you are interested in becoming more involved in the Early Intervention community and would like to be a contributing member of our Board, please contact Barb Shea at antigonish2@hotmail.com

Personnel Policies call for Revisions!

As all Early Intervention Programs are aware, the Early Intervention Personnel Policies have been completed and circulated to all programs. These policies are linked to the new Standards and Guidelines from the province which is outlined in your Service Agreement. Complete documents can be found at www.eins.ca/mission.cfm. Programs are open to enhance the policies for the benefit of their employees. We will spend some time over the next year reviewing, discussing, researching and changing as needed any policies brought forward. Revised policies will be presented at the 2010 AGM. Please bring any comments regarding particular policies to the AGM in June or share them via email to Sarah at sarah.melanson@ns.sympatico.ca. We realize that we have asked for these before but have not moved forward with this. Please re-submit any feedback you have shared. Feel free to chat with Sarah with any questions. THANKS!

Early Intervention Nova Scotia

Our Board

Brenda Putnam
Sarah Melanson
Donna Dexter
Jenny Gillis
Bernie Borden
Ashley Matthews
Suzanne McCurdy
Mary Hanington
Janice Ryan
Denise Lowe-
Whynott
Barb Shea
Mary Oxner



We're on the Web!

www.eins.ca

Join online discussion
panels for
parents, EI's & more
(www.eins.ca/forum)

E.I.N.S
14 Court Street,
Suite 200, Unit
129, Truro, NS,
B2N 3H7

My little girl Jane (age 5) has been involved with Sackville–Bedford Early Intervention since November of last year. We love our EI Worker, Janice, and she has been wonderful to our family. While driving one evening on our way home, it had gotten dark quite early. There were many stars twinkling bright in the clear sky above us. Jane and her sister, Stephanie (age 3), were looking out the car windows and discussing how much they were twinkling and they started singing the Starlight, Star Bright song. When they finished I asked them what they had wished for. Jane was quick with her answer and said, "I wished for lots of kisses for Mommy". I looked in the rear view mirror at her, saw her contemplative face and thought there was never a sweeter wish made. Of course the minute we got in the house I made sure that her wish came true as I tickled her and stole as many kisses from her and her sister as I could.

Jenny Gillis & Sarah Melanson were happy to join some special guests in attending the Nova Scotia Credit Unions Charitable Foundation AGM April, 25th. It was great to hear NSCUCF speak to the value of EI in the province, and their commitment to what we do. Thanks for your continued support!!



Early Intervention Nova Scotia PR/Fundraiser Items

- * EINS post-it note pads are available for sale, a great way to send a reminder or take a note. Contact Ashley Matthews if you are interested in purchasing some (ashleymatthews1@hotmail.com)
- * There are still a limited number of EINS/Credit Union Greeting Cards available for purchase (\$10 per pack of 12 cards) and EINS T-shirts can be ordered at any time (\$10 taxes in), please contact Jenny Gillis at jennygillis@hotmail.com.
- * We also still have EINS logo keychains for sale at a low \$5 each. If you would like to order some, please contact Caroline Gallop at 864-5251 or sbeip@ns.aliantzinc.ca.
- * EINS posters are still available (free of charge) for those interested, contact Jenny.

*Thank you for your interest in Early Intervention Nova Scotia!!
We look forward to sharing our next newsletter with you in the Fall!
Submissions can be sent to jennygillis@hotmail.com.*

Thanks!!