



# family information exchange KEY PLAYER PACKET

A newsletter for *Early On Michigan* families

If you are able to receive this Key Player Packet on-line (instead of by mail), or no longer wish to receive this publication, please contact Sybil at [sybil@arcmi.org](mailto:sybil@arcmi.org) or 1-800-292-7851, x103



**VOL. 11, NO. 1**

**SPRING 2005**

## what is happening at FIE

Family Information Exchange (FIE) will continue to be funded by a grant from the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education/Early Intervention Services until the end of this fiscal year (September 30, 2005). During this time, we will continue to provide parents with support, information and referral to local, regional and statewide resources. Our staff includes Dohn Hoyle, Arc Executive Director, Ellen Sugrue Hyman, Director of Grants, Kelly Orginski, Parent Consultant, Sandee Koski, Parent Consultant, Sybil Spencer, Communications Analyst and Char Blackburn, Secretary.

We would like to let you know that the FIE brochure (with punch out return card for parents) continues to be available. If your group or organization is in need of additional copies, please call Char at (800) 292-7851 x 128. We hope you find this Key Player Packet helpful. It is our plan to bring you two more issues before the end of the year.

**We would love your feedback on this issue, as well as any ideas you have for future issues. Contact Kelly ([kelly.o@arcmi.org](mailto:kelly.o@arcmi.org)) or Sandee ([sandee.k@arcmi.org](mailto:sandee.k@arcmi.org)) or call us at (800) 292-7851 x114.**

## a parent's voice - PAC, LICC, SICC

As a parent of a child with special needs, you have a unique and often unheard voice in your community. There are several opportunities within your local community and at the state level for you to become involved.

• **Parent Advisory Committee (PAC):** Every county in Michigan has an Intermediate School District – (ISD) sometimes called Educational Services Agencies – (ESA). These agencies help support local school districts with their special education service plans. Each ISD/ESA has a Parent Advisory Committee (PAC). The PAC's purpose is to advise the ISD/ESA on the delivery of special education services in the county. PAC's have anywhere from 1-3 representatives from each local school district.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the PAC, contact the Special Education Director at your ISD/ESA. If you need assistance locating the name/phone number of your Special Education Director, call Char at (800) 292-7851, x 128.

• **LICC:** *Early On* Michigan Local Interagency Coordinating Councils (LICCs) are local planning and advisory bodies for the *Early On* system,

established in each of the 57 service areas (ISDs) in Michigan. The LICCs are made up of individuals that replicate the membership found in the State Interagency Coordinating Council. The LICC membership includes family members who have children with special needs, representatives from the local intermediate school district, Community Health, and Human Services, Early Head Start, and other organizations that provide services to infants and toddlers with a developmental delay or an established condition and their families. Representation from organizations and agencies provide important information about local community resources. Both family and agency representation are essential to a successful LICC. The LICC is a place where a family's experience provides a valuable perspective on how services are currently being provided, as well as shaping the services in the future.

If you are interested in becoming a member of your local LICC, contact the *Early On* Coordinator in your county. If you need assistance locating the name/phone number of your *Early On* Coordinator call Char at 1-800-292-7851 x128.

(Continued on page 2 - See SICC)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

What is Happening at FIE .....	1
A Parent's Voice .....	1,2
Redesigning <i>Early On</i> .....	2
Mediation: It Can Help .....	2
IDEA Reauthorization .....	3
Your Individualized Service Plan .....	3
Moving On: Natural Environments to LRE .....	3
Children's Special Health Care Services .....	4
Guide By Your Side .....	4
Spotlight on Vocabulary and Professions .....	5
Arc State Conference Information .....	6
Child Care Coordinating Council (4Cs) .....	6
Everyone Together .....	6
State Board of Education and SICC Meetings .....	6
State Board of Education .....	7
Resources and Information .....	7

### Our staff:

**The Arc Michigan**  
Family Information Exchange  
1325 S. Washington Ave.  
Lansing, MI 48910  
800-292-7851 • 517-487-5426  
Fax 517-487-0303

**Dohn Hoyle**  
Arc Executive Director

**Ellen Sugrue Hyman**  
Arc Director of Grants, x105  
[ellen@arcmi.org](mailto:ellen@arcmi.org)

**Sandee Koski**  
Parent Consultant, x114  
[sandee@arcmi.org](mailto:sandee@arcmi.org)

**Kelly Orginski**  
Parent Consultant, x114  
[kelly.o@arcmi.org](mailto:kelly.o@arcmi.org)

**Sybil Spencer**  
Communication Analyst, x103  
[sybil@arcmi.org](mailto:sybil@arcmi.org)

**Char Blackburn**  
Secretary, x128  
[char@arcmi.org](mailto:char@arcmi.org)



(SICC - Continued from page 1)

• **SICC:** Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Educational Improvement Act (IDEA) requires that states establish a State Interagency Coordinating Council appointed by the Governor. For *Early On*® Michigan this council is called the State Interagency Coordinating Council for Handicapped Infants and Toddlers, Birth through Five. The Michigan SICC's Vision is to strengthen and support Michigan families of children ages birth through five with special needs by advising and assisting the Michigan Department of Education in the evaluation and continuous improvement of the *Early On* System.

In making appointments to the membership of the Council, the Governor assures that not less than 20% of the members are parents of infants and toddlers or children with disabilities aged 12 and younger, with knowledge of or experience with programs. Other members included public or private providers of early intervention services. State Legislature, personnel

preparation, an agency that provides or pays for early intervention services, preschool, Medicaid, Head Start, child care, health insurance, homeless, foster care, mental health, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The Council is charged to advise and assist the lead agency (Michigan Department of Education) regarding identification of fiscal and other support for services for early intervention programs and in the promotion of interagency agreements.

The next SICC meeting will be held on June 17, 2005, from 9:30 to 3:30 at the Michigan Department of Education's State Board Room in Lansing.

**If you are interested in being a member or want more information about the SICC, please call Barb Schinderle, SICC Staff Liaison at (517) 241-2591.**

## redesigning *Early On*®

On November 19, 2004, the *Early On* State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) voted to enter into a redesign of the *Early On* (Part C of IDEA) system for Michigan. There have been significant changes to Michigan's early childhood system and services since the inception of *Early On* in 1993, and there is an increasing focus on achieving meaningful results for children and families enrolled in *Early On*. A process for the redesign was adopted by the SICC on February 18, 2005.

A Web site, located at [www.earlyonredesign.com](http://www.earlyonredesign.com) has been created to facilitate communication about the redesign work. The Web site contains links to information about the 'Redesign Process', 'Presentations', and updates on 'What's New' with redesign activity.

Via the Web site, an e-mail list is being created that will be used to notify stakeholders when there are new materials

posted to the Web site, and more importantly, to request your input and comment to the redesign work. Parents are key stakeholders in *Early On* and your input into the redesign process is needed! Please visit the Redesign Web site and enroll on the e-mail list by clicking on the 'Subscribe' link.

**If you have questions or comments about the redesign process, please contact: [earlyonredesign@michigan.gov](mailto:earlyonredesign@michigan.gov). Parents without Internet access can forward comments or questions about the redesign to:**

**Teresa Marvin**  
Early On Parent Representative  
235 S. Grand Avenue, Suite 415  
Lansing, MI 48875  
(517) 241-9886 or (517) 526-0820

*Contributed by: Early On Redesign Staff*

## mediation: it can help

Is your child not getting the services that you believe he or she needs? Do you and the *Early On* Coordinator disagree about the best approach for helping your child? The Michigan Special Education Mediation Program (MSEMP) helps parents, educators, and service providers work together to develop an Individual Family Services Plan (IFSP) or resolve a problem that occurs when a child is receiving services.

Mediation is a process that helps people who disagree come to an agreement by providing a person (called a mediator) to help with communication. Mediation is voluntary: You choose whether or not to use it and you can leave at any time in the process. It is private: what happens at the mediation session cannot be used in discussions outside of the mediation or in court. The MSEMP trains mediators to foster positive communication. Mediators do not take sides. They assist the parties to come to their own agreement; they do not impose an agreement. In mediation, you do not have to agree to something you do not

like. The mediator helps people work through communication issues so you can focus on and resolve problems.

MSEMP services are available statewide through local community dispute resolution centers. The MSEMP is funded through the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education/ Early Intervention Services.

**You can learn more about the MSEMP at its Web site, [www.cenmi.org/msemp](http://www.cenmi.org/msemp). Call (800) 8RESOLVE or (800) 873-7658 to obtain mediation services from a center serving your area.**

**For additional information, go to The Arc Michigan's Web site at [www.arcmi.org](http://www.arcmi.org) – Family Information Exchange. If you do not have access to the Internet, please call and talk to Char at (800) 292-7851 x 128. She will gladly send you copies of helpful information from our Web site.**

# IDEA reauthorization

**The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act** was reauthorized by Congress and signed into law by President Bush in December of 2004. This is the law that provides for the education of infants, toddlers, preschoolers, children and youth with disabilities.

There have been some changes from the previous law. Organizations are still putting together information about the changes.

Look for additional information soon at The Arc Michigan's Web site, [www.arcmi.org](http://www.arcmi.org).

## your individualized family service plan

**The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)** is the federal law that provides programs and services for infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities. Part C of IDEA covers the unique needs of infants, toddlers and their families. Part C requires that "..... to the maximum extent appropriate to the needs of the child, early intervention services are provided in natural environments, including the home and community settings in which children without disabilities participate" [CFR 34 Part 303.12(b)]. Natural environments means "settings that are natural or normal for the child's age peers who have no disability" [34 CFR Part 303.12(4)(b)(2)]. Your county's *Early On* system coordinates services from many agencies within your community that provide services to infants, toddlers and their families. Once your baby/toddler has been evaluated, you and your *Early On* team will need to develop plan called an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).

*It is important that these 5 components guide the IFSP:*

- **Family Centered** – Your family's needs must be the center of the IFSP. The IFSP needs to blend the services into everyday places, family routines and everyday activities.
- **Culturally Competent** – Your family's personal and cultural beliefs must be respected when developing the IFSP.
- **Functional Approach** – Services need to help build skills that will be used in everyday activities (bath time, feeding/eating, getting dressed, playing and socializing).
- **Collaborative Services** – You need the agencies and organizations to work together and talk to each other.
- **Individualized Service Setting** – The plan is about what your baby/toddler and family need and should not be a standard package offered by the system.

Information is available in four *Early On* Guidebooks, available from your *Early On* Service Coordinator.

---

For additional information, go to The Arc Michigan's Web site at [www.arcmi.org](http://www.arcmi.org) – Family Information Exchange. If you do not have access to the Internet, please call and talk to Char at (800) 292-7851 x 128. She will gladly send you copies of helpful information from our Web site.

---

## moving on: natural environments to least restrictive environment

Life is about ongoing change. As your toddler becomes a preschooler, the people and agencies that provide you services will begin to change. Some preschoolers will attend a private, church, or community preschool, Head Start and/or participate in activities in their community. Preschool children who need special education services will go from having an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) to an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). When you are a part of *Early On*, the law requires services to be provided in the child's Natural Environment; for preschool and school age children, the law requires that children be educated in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE). Currently, emphasis is being placed on where the child would be and what they would be doing if he or she did not

have a disability. This is the reason service providers have been moving away from providing therapies in an isolated clinic or centrally located program to providing services in the home, day care and community (their Natural Environment). This same shift has been happening in our public school system. They are moving away from providing services and programs in separate schools and classrooms to providing services and programs in the school where the child would go to if they did not have a disability, or at least, a school in their community (their Least Restrictive Environment). You will be hearing many new words. It is important that you ask the professionals to explain unfamiliar words to you.

---

For additional information, go to The Arc Michigan's Web site at [www.arcmi.org](http://www.arcmi.org) – Family Information Exchange. If you do not have access to the Internet, please call and talk to Char at (800) 292-7851 x 128. She will gladly send you copies of helpful information from our Web site.

---

# children's special health care services (CSHCS)

**(CSHCS)** is a program of the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH). CSHCS pays for specialty medical care related to a child's qualifying physical disability or medical condition when that care is not covered by insurance. Families may be asked to pay a share of the medical costs, depending on their income.

**CSHCS** also offers support services to families of children with physical disabilities and medical conditions. These include:

- The Parent Participation Program's **Family Support Network of Michigan (FSN)**. It connects parents to trained support parents who have children with the same or a similar condition for one-to-one support. Some communities have FSN chapters with monthly meetings and family events.
- **CSHCS Family Phone Line (800)359-3722**. Operators can answer CSHCS questions and transfer callers toll-free to any CSHCS office. Also, parents may telephone each other for free while their CSHCS-enrolled child is hospitalized. Parents may use the line to talk toll-free with a FSN support parent.
- The **Heart-to-Heart Update**. The monthly memo gives CSHCS information updates and resources of interest to families of children with special needs.

- **"Relatively Speaking."** The weekend conference for young brothers and sisters of children with special needs that addresses their unique concerns.
- **Parent Conference Scholarships**. A parent may apply for a scholarship to attend a conference related to the diagnosis, care or treatment of his or her child with special health needs.

In addition, the private Children with Special Needs Fund provides support for CSHCS-eligible children not available from public or private programs. This support includes partial to full funding for wheelchair ramps into homes, van lifts, therapeutic tricycles, other equipment and summer camp scholarships.

**Take a free course on CSHCS basics at [www.training.mihealth.org](http://www.training.mihealth.org).**

**For more information, go to [www.michigan.gov/cshcs](http://www.michigan.gov/cshcs) or, call the CSHCS Family Phone Line at (800) 359-3722. Ask for a copy of CSHCS Family Guide.**

*Linda Lyles Daniels,  
Parent Communications Consultant  
Children's Special Health Care Services Plan Division  
Michigan Dept. of Community Health*

## guide-by-your-side program



The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) and the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention program (EHDI) is pleased to announce the establishment of the "Guide-By-Your-Side Program", a program that will link parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing with families of newly diagnosed children with a hearing loss. The "Guide-By-Your-Side Program" currently is comprised of 16 trained "Parent Guides" representing regions throughout the State of Michigan.

When a child is identified with a hearing loss, the audiologist, with the parent's consent, will make a referral to the "Guide-By-Your-Side Program" and to the *Early On* program. The EHDI program will link a Parent Guide with the identified family. The Parent Guides will arrange a home visit within 10 working days of the referral. Parent Guides will provide information and resources to the family and will ensure that connections to the *Early On* program are made.

The goal of the "Guide-By-Your-Side Program" is to provide parents of children, newly identified with a hearing loss, with opportunities to meet with a Parent Guide in order to:

- 1) Provide parents with opportunities to establish a supportive relationship with another parent of a child who is deaf or hard of hearing.
- 2) Provide parents with unbiased information regarding communication options for their child.
- 3) Provide parents with an understanding of the unique needs of infants who are deaf/hard of hearing.
- 4) Link parents to resources available locally, regionally and statewide.
- 5) Effectively link families to their *Early On* program.

**For additional information call: (517) 335-8955 or (517) 335-8246 (TTY). Fax to (517) 335-8036. Send e-mail to: [lester@nichigan.gov](mailto:lester@nichigan.gov)**

*Amy Lester, Parent Consultant  
EHDI/GBYS/MHV  
Michigan Department of Community Health*

## spotlight on vocabulary - learning the terms

- **Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP)** is a written document and guides the early intervention process for children with special needs (birth to 3 years) and their families. The **IFSP** is the vehicle through which effective early intervention is implemented in accordance with Part C of the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)*.
- **Individualized Education Program (IEP)** is a written agreement between the parents and the school about the child's educational needs and what will be done to address those needs in order for the child receive a **Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)** in the **Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)** and to have access to the general education curriculum. The IEP is used for students ages 3 to 26 years.
- **Natural Environments** means "(A) to the maximum extent appropriate, early intervention services are provided in natural environments; and (B) the provision of early intervention services for any infant or toddler with a disability occurs in a setting other than a natural environment that is most appropriate; as determined by the parent and the individualized family service plan team, only when early intervention cannot be achieved satisfactorily for the infant or toddler in a natural environment" (H. Res. 1350, 2004).
- **Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)** means that to the maximum extent appropriate, children with special needs, including children in public or private institutions or other care facilities, are educated with children who are not disabled.
- **Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)** means a school district must provide special education and related services that (A) have been provided at public expense, under public supervision and direction, and without charge; (B) meet the standards of the State educational agency; (C) include an appropriate preschool, elementary, or secondary school education in the State involved; and (D) are provided in conformity with the individualized education program required under 20 USC S 1414(a) (5).
- **Mainstreaming** has generally been used to refer to the selective placement of special education students in one or more "regular" education classes. Proponents of mainstreaming generally assume that a student must "earn" his or her opportunity to be placed in regular classes by demonstrating an ability to "keep up" with the work assigned by the regular classroom teacher. This concept is closely linked to traditional forms of special education service delivery.
- **Inclusion** means that all students, regardless of disability or severity of the disability are educated in a general education classroom full time. All services are delivered to the child in that setting.
- **Universal Education** is "An approach to education that creates learning environments which are inherently designed for diversity, thus making natural educational settings accessible to all children, all together, all the time."
- **Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP)** is a plan that emphasizes the skills needed, by the student, to behave in a more appropriate manner. **Positive Behavioral Support (PBS)** plans for behavioral intervention address both the source of the problem and the problem itself and foster the expression of needs in appropriate ways.



For additional information, go to The Arc Michigan's Web site at [www.arcmi.org](http://www.arcmi.org) – Family Information Exchange. If you do not have access to the Internet, please call and talk to Char at (800) 292-7851 x 128. She will gladly send you copies of helpful information from our Web site.

## spotlight on OTs, PTs and SLPs - what are they?



- **Occupational Therapist (OT)** An occupational therapist works with individuals to help them accommodate learning, physical, and other challenges so that they can perform everyday tasks. For adults, these tasks often relate to an occupation. The 'job' or 'occupation' of infants and toddlers is to play and interact with others. An OT can recommend toys and play activities that promote development and provide stimulation to your child. An OT is part of the team that helps identify the reasons for swallowing problems and helps develop a treatment plan.
- **Physical Therapist (PT)** is a professional trained in the prevention of injury and loss of movement in children and adults through therapeutic exercise and functional training. A PT can help with large motor movements (walking, running), range of motion in joints, self-care skills and the use of assistive technology (wheelchairs, walkers).
- **Speech and Language Pathologist (SLP)** is a professional trained in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of children and adults at risk for speech (the act of speaking), language (using words to communicate your thoughts), cognitive (thinking skills) and swallowing problems. As people we are driven to communicate. A SLP can recommend toys and play activities that promote communication and provide stimulation to your child. A SLP is a member of the team that helps identify the reasons for swallowing problems and help develop a treatment plan.

For additional information, go to The Arc Michigan's Web site at [www.arcmi.org](http://www.arcmi.org) – Family Information Exchange. If you do not have access to the Internet, please call and talk to Char at (800) 292-7851 x 128. She will gladly send you copies of helpful information from our Web site.

## the arc michigan annual conference - past, present, and future joining together!

Join us in Midland for the State Arc conference. The conference will be held at the Ashman Court and Marriot Conference Hotel, Thursday through Saturday, June 23 -25. There will be plenty to do for the entire family!

Ashman Court Hotel is located in the heart of downtown Midland, within walking distance to restaurants, coffee shops, parks, and specialty shops. While visiting Midland take a walk, or ride your bikes along the river on the Pere Marquette Rail Trail located just a hop, skip or jump out the door of the hotel on the Riverside. If you're an early riser, take a stroll through the Farmers Market on Saturday morning!

While at the conference choose from several breakout sessions. Governmental Affairs, How Accessing the General Education Curriculum provides for Implementation of LRE, Chapter III Medicaid, Building Relationships, Resolving

Disputes, Safety in your Community, and Successful Strategies for Building Community Support are just a few of the interesting topics that will be discussed.

During the sessions we have a fabulous children's program planned for children 4-13, and a nursery for children 0-3. Children 14-18 can choose between being a Jr. Counselor and attending conference sessions.

Don't miss out! Please contact The Arc Michigan at (800) 292-7851 for more information.

The registration form is available at:

Web site: [www.arcmi.org/Registration.pdf](http://www.arcmi.org/Registration.pdf)  
Marriot Conference Hotel,  
111 W. Main Street, Midland, MI 48640  
(800) 282-7778 or (989) 839-0500

## child care coordinating council (4Cs)

Child care is always an important issue in any family's life. If your child has a disability, it can be even more important, whether the child care is full time or just a few hours a week. The Michigan 4C Association promotes and advocates for the optimal care and development of Michigan's children and families through the statewide Community Coordinated Child Care 4C Network. This organization has **One Call for Child Care**. It is a toll-free service for families needing child care referral services. The caller is automatically connected to the

4C office in the region where the call originates. Please call **(866) 4CHILD CARE** or **(866) 424-4532** from your home location to insure that you will be connected to the appropriate office.

Callers using cell phones can call the Michigan 4C office in Lansing at **(800) 950-4171** where staff will refer the caller to the appropriate regional 4C office.

The Michigan 4C Association's Web site is located at [www.mi4c.org](http://www.mi4c.org). Send e-mail to: [mi4c@mi4c.org](mailto:mi4c@mi4c.org)

## everyone together



is a coalition of parent networks across Michigan. We are wonderfully diverse in location, ethnicity, race, culture, socio-economics and ability/disability. We are enthusiastically united in our mission to achieve an educational system that embraces Universal Education: a Michigan Model for educating **All Children, All together, All the time**. Networks are developing across the state, including Kalamazoo, Midland, Gratiot, Macomb, Monroe, St. Clair, Oakland, Livingston, Wayne and Muskegon/Ottawa/Kent Counties.

For more information, visit [www.everyonetogether.org](http://www.everyonetogether.org). If you do not have access to the Internet, please call and talk to Char at (800) 292-7851 x 128. She will provide you with contact information in your area.

### Michigan State Board of Education Meetings

MEETING DATES	LOCATION
June 14	Holt Public Schools
July 12	Wayne RESA
August 9	East Lansing
September 13	Clinton RESA
October 11	To be announced
November 15	To be announced
December 13	To be announced

The State Board of Education meetings are open to the public. For meeting location and time, call (517) 373-3900.

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact Mrs. Eileen F. Hamilton, State Board Executive one week in advance at (517) 373-3900 to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

Visit the Web site at [www.michigan.gov/SBE](http://www.michigan.gov/SBE).

## SICC remaining meeting dates for 2005

MEETING DATES	TIME	LOCATION
June 17	9:30 - 3:30	Michigan Dept. of Education— State Board Room, Lansing
September 16	9:30 - 3:30	St. Francis Retreat Center - De Witt
November 18	9:30 - 3:30	Michigan Dept. of Education— State Board Room, Lansing

For additional information about SICC meetings, contact Barb Schinderle, SICC Staff Liaison, at (517) 241-2591.



## State Board of Education

**Kathleen N. Straus**  
*President*

**John C. Austin**  
*Vice President*

**Carolyn L. Curtin**  
*Secretary*

**Marianne Yared McGuire**  
*Treasurer*

**Nancy Danhof**  
*NASBE Delegate*

**Elizabeth W. Bauer**  
*Board Member*

**Reginald M. Turner**  
*Board Member*

**Eileen L. Weiser**  
*Board Member*

### Ex Officio Members

**Jennifer M. Granholm**  
*Governor*

**Jeremy M. Hughes, PhD**  
*Interim Superintendent  
of Public Instruction*

*Direct all inquiries and  
submit information to:*

### THE ARC MICHIGAN

Family Information Exchange  
1325 South Washington Avenue  
Lansing, Michigan 48910  
1-800-292-7851, ext. 103  
517-487-5426, ext. 103  
sybil@arcmi.org

### STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL LAW

The Michigan Department of Education complies with all Federal laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination, and with all requirements and regulations of the U.S. Department of Education.

*This publication was  
printed 1256 times at a price  
per piece of \$1.05.*

This document was produced and distributed through an IDEA Mandated Activities Project for Family Information Exchange awarded by the Michigan Department of Education, The Michigan State Board of Education, or the U.S. Department of Education, and no endorsement is inferred. This document is in the public domain and may be copied for further distribution when proper credit is given. For further information or inquiries about this project, contact the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services, P.O. Box 30008, Lansing, Michigan 48909.

## resources and information

### The Arc Michigan Family Information Exchange

(800) 292-7851 • (517) 487-5426  
Web site: [www.arcmi.org](http://www.arcmi.org)  
E-mail: [sybil@arcmi.org](mailto:sybil@arcmi.org)

### Autism Society of Michigan

(800) 223-6722 • (517) 882-2800  
Web site: [www.autism-mi.org](http://www.autism-mi.org)  
E-mail: [miautism@aol.com](mailto:miautism@aol.com)

### Association for Children's Mental Health (ACMH)

(888) 226-4543 • (517) 381-5125  
Web site: [www.acmh-mi.org](http://www.acmh-mi.org)  
E-mail: [acmhadmin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:acmhadmin@sbcglobal.net)

### Michigan Disability Rights Coalition (MDRC)

(800) 760-4600 • (517) 333-2477  
Web site: [www.copower.org/mdrc/MDRC.htm](http://www.copower.org/mdrc/MDRC.htm)  
E-Mail: [mdrc@match.org](mailto:mdrc@match.org)

### Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan

(800) 377-6226 • (248) 351-7979  
Web site: [www.epilepsymichigan.org](http://www.epilepsymichigan.org)  
E-mail: [letters@epilepsymichigan.org](mailto:letters@epilepsymichigan.org)

### Michigan Protection and Advocacy

(800) 288-5923 (V/TTY) • (517) 487-1755  
Livonia: (800) 414-3956 • (248) 473-2990  
Web site: [www.mpas.org](http://www.mpas.org)  
E-mail: [molson@mpas.org](mailto:molson@mpas.org)

### Developmental Disabilities Institute (Wayne State)

(888) 978-4334 • (313) 577-2654 (V/TTY)  
Web site: [www.wayne.edu/DDI](http://www.wayne.edu/DDI)  
E-mail: [B\\_Le\\_Roy@wayne.edu](mailto:B_Le_Roy@wayne.edu)

### Learning Disabilities Association (LDA)

(888) 597-7809 • (517) 485-8160  
Web site: [www.bridges4kids.org/](http://www.bridges4kids.org/)  
E-mail: [ldami@aol.com](mailto:ldami@aol.com)

### UCP – Michigan

(800) 828-2714 • (517) 203-1200 (V/TTY)  
FAX: (517) 203-1203  
Web site: [www.ucpmichigan.org](http://www.ucpmichigan.org)  
E-mail: [ucp@ucpmichigan.org](mailto:ucp@ucpmichigan.org)

### UCP – Metro Detroit

(800) 827-4843 • (248) 557-5070  
FAX: (248) 557-0224  
Web site: [www.ucpdetroit.org](http://www.ucpdetroit.org)  
E-mail: [main@ucpdetroit.org](mailto:main@ucpdetroit.org)

### Washtenaw Association for Community Advocacy

(734) 662-1256

### Michigan Special Education Mediation Program (MSEMP)

(800) 8RESOLVE or (800) 873-7658  
(517) 485-2274 • Fax: (517) 485-1183  
Web site: [www.cenmi.org/msemp](http://www.cenmi.org/msemp)  
E-mail: [resolve@tds.net](mailto:resolve@tds.net)

### Citizens Alliance to Uphold Special Education (CAUSE)

(800) 221-9105 • (888) 814-4013 (TTY)  
FAX: (517) 886-9366  
Web site: [www.causeonline.org](http://www.causeonline.org)  
E-Mail: [info@causeonline.org](mailto:info@causeonline.org)

### Bridges4Kids

(877) 553-5437 • (877) 553-KIDS  
Web site: [www.bridges4kids.org](http://www.bridges4kids.org)  
E-mail: [info@bridges4kids.org](mailto:info@bridges4kids.org)

### Project PERFORM

(800) 552-4821  
Web site: [www.wash.k12.mi.us/perform](http://www.wash.k12.mi.us/perform)  
E-mail: [kobimba@wash.k12.mi.us](mailto:kobimba@wash.k12.mi.us)



*Project PERFORM is an information, referral and support resource for Michigan families of infants, toddlers, children and young adults to age 26 with special needs or disabilities and professionals who work with them. PERFORM offers free information folders (in print and on-line) parent-to-parent support and an extensive lending library.*





## The Arc Michigan

Family Information Exchange  
1325 S. Washington Ave.  
Lansing, Michigan 48910

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Lansing, MI  
Permit #475

Return Service Requested

- **Providing Information and Resources** for you and your family, including a packet of general and specific information for families of children with special needs, a list of resources throughout the state and nation, and information on how to navigate systems and understand benefits.
  - **Lending Library** of books and media covering various types of information to enrich the lives of families throughout Michigan. For more information call 1.800.292.7851, ext. 128
  - **Connecting** your family to parents on local and state *Early On*<sup>®</sup> councils by linking your family to state, national and international matching organizations.
  - **Offering Opportunities** to get involved with other families in making *Early On* better, including links to learning opportunities, connections with parent groups, and the chance to share your experiences with policy makers to improve services for families.
- Remember these words of encouragement:**
- Take care of yourself
  - You are your child's best advocate - keep up the good work!
  - Appreciate the strengths of your child, yourself and your family
  - Celebrate the accomplishments!
  - Set priorities
  - You know your child best - never quit
- **Early On Family Information Exchange** includes employees who are parents of children with special needs who "have been there".

