

PROVIDER CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter for First Steps Service Providers ♦ Spring 2009

Using the DAYC (Developmental Assessment of Young Children)

In 2009, the DAYC will be administered to assist in eligibility determinations for children with suspected developmental delays at the time of referral. Benefits of using the DAYC include the following:

- The DAYC contains five subtests that address each developmental domain (communication, cognition, adaptive, physical and social/emotional) and may be administered by a variety of providers (special instructor, OT, PT, SLP).
- Service coordinators no longer need to find multiple providers to administer multiple evaluations to determine eligibility.
- The family does not have to tell its story to a variety of different evaluators.
- Use of the DAYC cuts down on the time and scheduling for families as they make their way through the referral process.
- Results are provided in standard scores for each of the developmental domains.

When using the DAYC, it is important to remember a few essential points.

- When a child is referred to First Steps with a suspected developmental delay, and the service coordinator decides that an evaluation

is needed to determine eligibility, the service coordinator will contact a qualified provider to administer the DAYC. The service coordinator uses the DAYC results along with existing information from parents and professionals to determine a child's eligibility. After a child is found eligible, an assessment might be necessary to help formulate the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) and to provide strategies/activities to enhance the child's development through education and consultation with the family.

- Eligibility for First Steps is not based only on results of the DAYC. According to Part C Federal Regulations, no single procedure is used as the sole criterion for determining a child's eligibility (34 CFR 303.323).
- Eligibility is determined by the service coordinator after a review of pertinent information. The evaluating provider should defer any questions about eligibility to the service coordinator.

Additional information about the DAYC can be found on the First Steps Web site. Visit <http://dese.mo.gov/divspced/FirstSteps/index.html> and click the DAYC link under *How Do I Find?*

WebSPOE Tip: How Do I View or Update a Provider Account Agreement or New Agreement Attestation?

1. On the provider account management pull-down menu, select the *provider account* menu option. A submenu displays.
2. Select the *account detail* submenu option. The provider account detail page displays.
3. Click the *agreements* tab. The provider account agreements page displays.
4. To update current payee agreements, select the *I agree* link under *current* to view and confirm a specific agreement. The *I agree* page for provider accounts displays when clicked.
5. Click *I agree*. The provider account agreements page displays, and the *historical* table is refreshed to display the newly agreed-to document.
6. To view detailed information about historical payee agreements, select the PDF link under *historical*.

(On the *help* pull-down menu, select *online help* and type *new agreements* in the search window for additional links.)



Early Intervention Teams (EIT)

In 2007-08, Dr. Robin McWilliam came to Missouri to meet and advise First Steps professionals on the use of teams within early intervention. Currently, there are approximately 18 teams implementing the *teaming* approach in rural and urban areas throughout the state. As Missouri continues to expand this concept, there is a need to modify and customize the idea of *teams* for our state.

The approach Missouri has created is called Early Intervention Teams (EIT). There are four components to the Missouri model:

- Teaming
- Shared service coordination activities
- Primary service provider approach
- Ancillary providers not on the team.

Flexibility is key (along with a healthy dose of cooperation and teamwork) as Missouri begins to implement EIT.

EIT Spotlight

The following was written by a member of the Northwest Missouri regional team:

We have been using the teaming model in Northwest Missouri since May 2008. We are currently providing services to eight children using this model. Our team is extremely lucky because we all work for the same agency and are housed in

the same building, so it is easier for us to consult with each other throughout the month as a need or question arises regarding a teaming child.

We also have the advantage of having worked together as a team for several years and have utilized a transdisciplinary approach in therapy. We are secure in the knowledge-base and skills that our team members possess and know that a member will request a direct consultation when and if she feels she needs more help to address a problem. As team members we provide general information to the EI specialist related to our discipline, but we do not provide specific strategies unless we have seen the child directly.

Our team has a one-hour formal meeting once a month to discuss the children we are seeing. For our team, this meeting is more about sharing information about the children because usually we are able to discuss concerns or questions within a few days after a child's appointment. When we can go to the next scheduled appointment with a suggestion or answer for the family, it makes things much more family-friendly.

One big problem our team experiences is with scheduling. Our team members have fairly full schedules, and we do not all work on the same days – yet we have to find times to go to appointments together for consultations. We have not yet found an easy solution for this problem.

Meet the First Steps Area Directors

We would like to introduce Tina Lawson, area director for Regions 3 and 6. The previous area director, Pam Thomas, accepted the position of coordinator for the First Steps program upon Joyce Jackman's retirement in September 2008.

- Marcy Morrison (Regions 1 & 2) Contact: (314) 340-5731 or marcy.morrison@dese.mo.gov
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