



# KIT

## "Keeping In Touch"

### June 2008



*A Publication of the Army Educational & Developmental Intervention Services CSPD*

### Resource Article



Providing a smooth transition out of early intervention at the age of three is a primary goal for all early intervention programs. Typically, we think of a "smooth transition" in terms of having all the information ready for the receiving agency and being sure that all the paperwork is completed and all the meetings are held on time. But what about the emotional needs of the family?

In this month's KIT article, "Transitions of Families from Early Intervention to Preschool Intervention for Children with Disabilities," Ann Connelly addresses how to make transition from early intervention to preschool more emotionally smooth for families. She starts by acknowledging that families with children who have disabilities often go through more and more difficult transitions than other families and moves quickly to focus on the transition from early intervention to preschool.

Connelly points to research completed by Hanson in 2002 that shows that transition to the schools is seen as an event, not a process, which is stressful both for families and for professionals. "Forty-three percent of the families in the study found transition to be uncomfortable and anxiety producing" (p. 12). Using the family resiliency model as a framework, Connelly suggests a way to assure that transition is a process, not an event and to address the stress of making the change as well as the paperwork. She gives helpful suggestions for ways to reduce the stress of transition and make the process, in all its aspects, truly smooth.

Connelly, A. M. (2007). Transitions of families from early intervention to preschool intervention for children with disabilities. *Young Exceptional Children*, 10(3), 10-16.

### On the WWW

The website this month is courtesy of Julie Scott, EDIS Program Manager at Ft. Rucker Alabama. The Born Learning site is a "public engagement campaign that helps parents, grandparents and caregivers explore ways to turn everyday moments into fun learning opportunities." United Way of America and United Way Success By 6 collaboratively developed the site in partnership with the Ad Council, Civitas and Families and Work Institute.

The site is great to share with parents and caregivers as it highlights how busy families can take advantage of natural learning opportunities at home, while traveling, and in public places. Also included is valuable information about children's development and public awareness campaign information. Check this site out at:

[www.bornlearning.org](http://www.bornlearning.org)

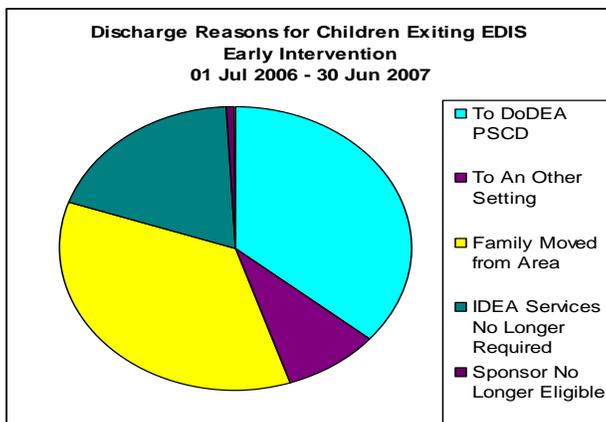
### What Do the Data Say?



*What percentage of children receiving early intervention services from Army EDIS transition to DoDEA Special Education?*

To answer this question data from the U.S. Army Medical Command (MEDCOM) EDIS Annual Report of Compliance, September 2007 were reviewed.

During the past DoD reporting year (1 July 2006 to 31 June 2007) the majority (36.2%) of children transitioned from Army EDIS to DoDEA Preschool Services for Children with Disabilities (PCSD). This was followed closely by transitions due to families moving from their respective areas (35%). Transitions due to children no longer requiring IDEA services made up 19.1% of all transitions. Children transitioning to another setting, including the home if the parents elected not to pursue PSCD, made up 8.9% of transitions. The remainder of transitions was due to sponsors no longer being eligible for early intervention through EDIS. Figure 1 below illustrates the distribution of transitions based on DoD reporting categories.



Families clearly transition from EDIS for a variety of reasons. While each transition requires individualized planning, working in partnership with families and receiving agencies to facilitate smooth transitions remains a common goal.

### Consultation Corner



This section of the KIT features consultation, in the form of questions and answers, from national experts and leaders in the field of early intervention. From June through September 2008, the Consultation Corner will feature Dr. Beth Rous and Caroline Gooden responding to questions related to our focus topic:

#### Transition from EI to Preschool

**Dr. Beth Rous** is Associate Professor in Educational Leadership Studies and Director of Early Childhood at the Human Development Institute at the University of Kentucky. Dr. Rous is a leading researcher in the field of transitions for young children, and has published numerous referred journal articles and a leading text on transitions for young children with special needs. She currently participates in several national workgroups studying transition policy, and is the Principal Investigator for a multi-state Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) project, the National Early Childhood Transition Center (NECTC). She is frequently invited to present the findings of her transition research nationally, and has secured extensive state and national funding to further the field of transition research.

**Caroline Gooden** has been in the field of early childhood/early childhood special education for over 25 year. While currently, the Coordinator for the National Early Childhood Transition Center (NECTC), she has extensive experience with transition as both a director and service provider, in center- and home-based programs. She has taught several courses in early childhood special education, including administration and public policy, and mentors new teachers in the field of interdisciplinary early childhood education.

### On the WWW

The Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) is offering a continuing education opportunity for EDIS KIT readers.

In line with the focus on AT in EI, readers are invited to receive continuing education contact hours for reading the monthly KIT publications (June through September 2008) and completing a multiple choice exam about the content covered in these KITs.

If you are interested, take the exam online at [www.edis.army.mil](http://www.edis.army.mil) and upon successful completion, you will receive a certificate of non-discipline specific continuing education contact hours.

**Please send your Consultation Corner questions and KIT ideas via email to [ediscspd@amedd.army.mil](mailto:ediscspd@amedd.army.mil)**