



Child Development and Family Studies

August 2008

Supporting Infants and Toddlers in Indiana

The need for high quality care, education, and early intervention for children, birth to age 3, has increased dramatically in Indiana. Yet, the preparation of professionals qualified to plan and supervise services for infants and toddlers has lagged far behind. If you work with infants and toddlers, or supervise other adults who do, the 4th Annual *Infant - Toddler Specialists of Indiana (ITSI) Institute – A Rainbow of Care for Infants Toddlers* is for you!



The *ITSI* Institute will take place on **August 21 – 22, 2008, at the Holiday Inn Select, Lafayette – City Centre** (515 South Street ~ Lafayette, Indiana; 765-423-1000). Cost for the Institute is \$50 (lunch provided both days). **To register for the Institute** (either on-line or via mail), **visit the [IAEYC website](#)**. There you will find a complete schedule of events, hotel and city information, and driving directions.

ITSI Institute Speakers

Workshop tracks include physical, cognitive, and social/emotional development, communication and literacy. Keynote speakers include Dr. Rima Shore, an expert on child development and education (*We Are the Jetsons: Raising and Teaching Young Children in a Digital Age*), and Barbara Gebhard, the project director of State Policy Initiatives at ZERO to THREE (*Creating a Common Vision in Early Childhood: Infants and Toddlers are Integral to the Big Picture*).



For information about future *ITSI* events and resources, become a member of the *Infant – Toddler Specialists of Indiana (ITSI) Network* by signing up at <http://www.itsi-indiana.org>. *ITSI* is a project of the Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children (Indiana AEYC), in partnership with Purdue University and Indiana University, which is

funded by the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, Bureau of Child Care, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Child Care Bureau.

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Essential Life Skills for Military Families

With more than 4,400 National Guard and Reserve soldiers currently deployed, support for military members and their families is needed from Indiana communities at levels not seen since World War II.

The [Military Family Research Institute \(MFRI\)](#) at Purdue University is pleased to offer a program that will train Extension educators and other community members to help these families during the transition between civilian and military life.

In fall 2008, MFRI is hosting a program called *Essential Life Skills for Military Families (ELSMF)*. The program will train educators to work directly with military families to promote strong marriages and resilient relationships among National Guard and military reserve couples.



Purdue Extension educators will be trained to teach the following five workshop modules that specifically target the needs of the Citizen Soldier family when their soldier is activated or deployed:

- Preparing Together for the Unexpected
- Making Ends Meet Together
- Facing Legal Challenges Together
- Fostering Family Resilience and Strength
- Guiding Children Together—Parenting Together and Apart

For more information, or **to register for this training (October 14, 2008 in Peru, IN or October 15, 2008 in Columbus, IN)**, please contact Sheri Dunn-Ramsay, Training Specialist, at the Military Family Research Institute by phone at 765-496-6045 or by email at sheridr@purdue.edu.



Essential Life Skills for Military Families, funded by the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, is a collaborative effort between the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service, East Carolina University, NC State University, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The Indiana offerings of *ELSMF* will be the first time this program is being held outside of North Carolina.

The Military Family Research Institute is a research and outreach organization funded by the Lilly Endowment, the Office of Military Community and Family Policy in the Department of Defense, and others.

Getting to Know You: Dr. Judith A. Myers-Walls

[Dr. Judith A. Myers-Walls](#) is an Associate Professor of Developmental Studies and Extension Specialist in the Department of Child Development and Family Studies at Purdue. She currently has a part-time Extension appointment as well as research and teaching responsibilities. Judy is a Service Learning Fellow, leads study abroad trips to study families and culture, teaches classes about working with parents and family life education, and is primary author and manager for three (3) Websites in support of children and families:



[Provider-Parent Partnerships](#)

www.extension.purdue.edu/providerparent

This Website, sponsored by Purdue University Extension, is dedicated to helping providers and parents give better support to children as they grow. It is written for childcare providers—those who take care of infants and toddlers, preschoolers, or school-age children. It explains how providers can work with parents and talk with them about many different issues



affecting children. To support parents, the site includes materials that providers can print out and share with them. The Website provides hundreds of pages and links covering eight topic areas: Parent-Provider Relationships, Supporting Parents, Child Growth &

Development, Guidance & Discipline, Children & Learning, Family/Child Relationships, Health & Safety, and Making Connections. Sections also are provided for learning to use the site and for providing feedback.

[Purple Wagon](#)

www.extension.purdue.edu/purplewagon/

Purple Wagon

Children's understanding of peace and political violence develops gradually. The vivid purple wagon imagery was developed based on the experience of one young child's early understanding. This framework is used to bring the user research-based information, recommendations, and activities to help children understand political violence, cope with fears and sadness when groups are in conflict, and learn how to make peace.

The site, sponsored by Purdue University Extension and the Department of Child Development and Family Studies, offers hundreds of pages and links. In addition to audience sections provided for parents, children/teens, educators/teachers, news reporters, and researchers, there are sections on Peacemaking for Families; War, Terrorism, and Political Violence; Frequently Asked Questions, Other Languages (currently only Spanish, but soon also Mandarin); and Tell Us What You Think.

[Family Life Education Materials Quality Assessment Tool \(FLEMat QAT\)](#)

www.extension.purdue.edu/cfs/topics/HD/FLEMat-QAT/FLEMat-QAT.htm

This Quality Assessment Tool was designed to help family life educators, and others who work with families, judge the quality of written and online materials aimed at families. It focuses on factors that can be assessed by examining the materials themselves and guides the user through an analysis of the content and construction of the materials.

This tool breaks the assessment process down into four steps: 1) choosing the type of materials to be reviewed, 2) writing a description of the material, 3) determining the quality of the material, and 4) writing a recommendation related to the review. Detailed information about each criterion is provided, often using links to other sources. A summary form allows the reviewer to record results and to calculate a total quality score.

This Website, sponsored by the Department of Child Development and Family Studies and Purdue University Extension was launched in Spring of 2008 and is still being refined. Revisions are being made in response to feedback from professionals and students using the site.

For more information about these Websites, contact Dr. Myers-Walls by phone at 765-494-2959 or by email at jmyerswa@purdue.edu.