



FLORIDA ASSOCIATION FOR INFANT MENTAL HEALTH

FAIMH E-Notes/Fall 2011 Edition

In the News

On Wednesday, September 7th, the Legislative Budget Committee (LBC) voted to approve Florida's participation in the **Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visitation Program**. This approval means that Florida is now eligible to compete in the federal **Race to the Top—Early Learning Challenge** grant. This grant could provide the state with \$100 million that could be used to create a more coordinated system of care for children under the age of five. For more information visit <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop-earlylearningchallenge/index.html>

Did You Know?

- Florida ranks in the bottom in the nation on almost every indicator of child wellbeing (Florida's State of the Children Report, March, 2011). According to the new **Kids Count Data Book Report** Florida had an 11% increase between 2000 and 2009 in the number of children who live in poverty. An estimated 626,000 children in Florida, about 10%, have been affected by foreclosures since 2007, ranking Florida second in the nation in that category. For more information about Florida's children, visit <http://floridakidscount.fmhi.usf.edu/index.cfm>
- Early identification is a key component of early intervention; however, many pediatricians still do not routinely screen young children for developmental delays. An article appearing in the July 2011 issue of *Pediatrics*, highlights the findings from a survey conducted among 927 pediatricians. This study is follow-up to an earlier study conducted in 2002. Researchers found that just under 48% of pediatricians report using a standardized developmental screening tools for infants and toddlers up to 35 months of age (this number is up from 23% in 2002). To access an excerpt of the article (as well as the complete study), go to: <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/128/1/14.abstract>
- *Science* magazine has devoted a special section of their August 19th issue to the topic of early childhood education. The articles in this section detail what is known about the importance of early intervention with writings from Jack Shonkoff, Steven Barnett, and David Dickinson. To access excerpts from the articles (and the full articles themselves), go to <http://www.sciencemag.org/site/special/education2011>

Upcoming Events

Zero to Six Child Welfare Speaker Series—Tuesday, October 6, 9:00 am Pacific/12:00 pm Eastern. Free, on-line presentation, [The Impact of Trauma and the Experience of Young Children in the Child Welfare System](#), conducted by Patricia Van Horn, Julie Larrieu, and Mindy Kronenberg. In this presentation, speakers will focus on the unique needs of infants and toddlers within the child welfare system. To sign up for this event, please visit <http://learn.nctsn.org/course/category.php?id=3>

Zero to Three National Training Institute will be held December 9—11, 2011 in Washington, DC. Keynote speakers include Deborah Phillips (Georgetown University), Charles Zeanah (Tulane University) and the Honorable Arne Duncan, Secretary of Education (invited). To register for the conference, please visit <http://www.zttntconference.org/registration.aspx>.

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