



First Steps

*The Newsletter for
Indiana Early Intervention*



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Letter from Christina *Making Strides*

Dear Colleagues and Families,

First Steps' mission is to ensure all Indiana families with infants and toddlers experiencing developmental delays or disabilities have access to early intervention services. While this is becoming increasingly difficult to accomplish with the large numbers of referrals we are receiving, we have made strides to improve the program's recruitment and retention of qualified personnel in hopes to decrease case load sizes and increase the availability and access to all First Steps services.

We are tackling this in a variety of ways. First, we are working directly with higher education institutions statewide to attract new grads to early intervention. These relationships are improving and collaboration efforts have begun. Local planning and coordinating councils and provider agencies are participating in presentations and career fairs with First Steps' outreach manager. We have begun

to align our personnel standards and educational requirements with these institutions as well as asking them to work on evolving their pre-service education for students. Training on coaching and reflective supervision is underway in three clusters, as we know that professionals need to feel competent and supported when working in home visiting careers. The new First Steps Policy Manual was implemented September 1 after almost 24 months of collaboration with stakeholders on its contents. The enrollment and credentialing requirements have been revised to be more in line with professional licensing associations in order to reduce burden on providers while maintaining professional standards. We have seen an improvement in provider access to a variety of quality trainings at reasonable costs and an increase in the number of trainings, such as the DSP, be provided virtually to decrease the time providers need to take off work and travel. Also implemented are simplified enrollment and credentialing processes through reformatted forms and an added mechanism for online submission. Finally, the state office completed a full fiscal analysis of the First Steps program, of which a study of provider and service coordination rates was part. To read the reports, please visit the [First Steps website](#).

Our work does not stop here as our mission will continue to be worth doing. We are committed to accomplishing the things we haven't done before. We will continue to recruit and advocate for all personnel, children and families. Thank you all for how you are and what you do in the lives of children and families each and every day. Know that you are all truly appreciated.

Best, Christina



First Steps Policy Manual and More Now Available Online

The First Steps policy manual, provider enrollment and credentialing forms and a new pilot individualized family service plan form are now available on the First Steps website by clicking on the links below:

- [First Steps policy manual and related documents \(including a FAQ!\)](#)
- [Provider enrollment forms \(note that in order to access the digital signature function, the enrollment and credentialing forms must be downloaded and opened in Adobe Acrobat\)](#)
- [Provider training information and credentialing forms](#)
- [Pilot IFSP form](#)

Please contact First Steps policy manager Meghan Smith at Meghan.Smith@fssa.IN.gov with questions or concerns.



ICC Update

The Interagency Coordinating Council members are First Steps stakeholders appointed by the Governor. The role of the ICC and its subcommittees is to advise the First Steps office on the state's early intervention system. We believe that adopting a shared vision and shared goals is essential to working together to improve services and outcomes for the children and families we serve.

All ICC meeting dates and minutes are posted on [the DDRS website](#).

The next meeting of the ICC is Nov. 14, 2018 from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. EST at:

Choices Coordinated Care Solutions
7941 Castleway Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46250



DDRS—First Steps Indiana Statewide Profile Report

Reporting Period: 07/01/2017–06/30/2018

I. Population Information

Population (U.S. Census Bureau)	6,376,792
Population Growth Percentage (U.S. Census Bureau)	4.0%

II. Child Enrollment & Referral

	Number of Children	Percentage of Children
One-day Count w/ IFSP –0 to 1 year old	1,629	
One-day Count w/ IFSP –All Children	11,370	
Annual Count of Children w/ IFSP	22,074	
Annual Count of Children Served (regardless of IFSP)	26,363	
Average Age at Referral (months)	14	
New IFSP, 01/01/2018–03/31/2018	3,232	
Children with Referral to IFSP 45+ Days, 01/01/2018–03/31/2018	80	

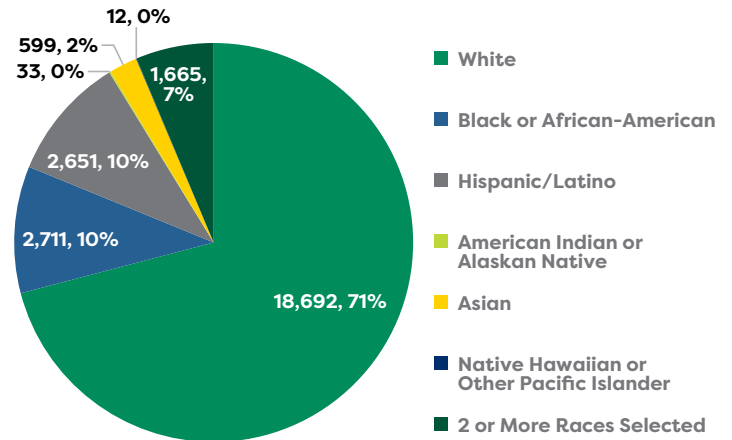
III. Exits

	Number of Children	Percentage of Children
Children Moving to Preschool Special Education	4,530	45%
Children Under 3, Services No Longer Needed	231	2%
Eligible Children Who Declined Services	1,253	12%

IV. Paid Services

Children w/IFSP Served Primarily in the Natural Environment	21,519	97%
Total Amount Paid on Behalf of Children Served	\$41,581,569.34	
Average Paid on Behalf of Each Child Served	\$1,577.27	

V. Race Information



VI. Children Receiving Each Service Type

Service Type	Number of Children Served	Percent Receiving Service
Assistive Technology	193	1%
Audiology	1,035	4%
Developmental Therapy	14,004	53%
Health Services	0	0%
Interpreter Services	307	1%
Medical	0	0%
Nursing	0	0%
Nutrition	396	2%
Occupational Therapy	13,718	52%
Other Services	29	0%
Physical Therapy	12,809	49%
Psychology	140	1%
Social Work	41	0%
Speech Therapy	17,816	68%
Vision	0	0%

Source: First SideHatch Database

PLAY Project Two-Day Intensive Workshop

The Childhood League Center will present workshop on Oct. 18 & 19

The Childhood League Center Two-Day Intensive Workshop will be held Oct. 18–19 at the East Central ESC in Connersville, Ind. This workshop, which is open to families and early interventionists, is the first step in becoming a Certified PLAY Project Consultant or Teaching PLAY Consultant.

PLAY Project is an effective, relationship-based, parent-implemented intervention for children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) or those at risk. Created by Dr. Richard Solomon, a developmental and behavioral pediatrician, the PLAY Project targets social interaction, communication and functional development.

Using relationships, the PLAY Project empowers parents/caregivers to use everyday moments to deliver the intervention themselves and connect with their child.

A certified PLAY Project Consultant (PPC) collaborates with a family to create a PLAY Plan unique to their child. The PPC provides one-on-one training, modeling, coaching and video feedback on how to expand their child's developmental stages through everyday activities. The intervention is intensive and dynamically adjusts over time.

Increase your capacity to help even more families of children with autism in your community. Learn more about principles and methods of the PLAY Project to gain immediate skills in helping children with ASD and those who are at risk. This interactive experience consists of case studies, video analysis of parent and child interactions and group activities designed to develop your skills using play-based, developmental intervention techniques. You will also learn about the classroom-based application of the model, Teaching PLAY.

The workshop is open to all who are interested, from administrators to families, and from health care providers to professional service providers. Requested CEUs include: First Steps; Indiana Occupational Therapy Committee; Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology; and Behavioral Health and Human Services.

The cost is \$395 (there are special rates for parents; POs accepted). The price includes CEUs, materials and meals.

Register today at [Intervening Early Registration](#). For more information, visit [Intervening Early](#) or contact Patricia at (614) 253-6933 x232.



2-DAY INTENSIVE WORKSHOP

October 18 & 19
East Central ESC, Connersville, IN
<http://www.interveningearly.org/school-events/indiana-october2018/>
Cost: \$395*

*Special rates for parents. POs accepted. All prices includes CEUs, materials and meals.

Cued American English Classes

National Cued Speech Association is offering two interactive workshops

The National Cued Speech Association (NCSA) is offering their Introduction to Cued American English and Cued American English Beyond Beginners classes the weekend of Oct. 20–21 from 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. at Mid America Science Park in Scottsburg, Ind. Both courses will be taught by an NCSA-certified instructor.

The NCSA Deaf Children's Literacy Project invites you to discover how deaf children can learn the building blocks of English (phonemes), rhyming skills and the language of their home through their eyes with cueing. Cued American English provides the foundation for language development and phonemic awareness that deaf children need for lifelong English literacy and for meeting success with hearing aids and cochlear implants.

Visit [NCSA](#) for more information. If you have additional questions, contact NCSA Executive Director Sarina Roffé at (800) 459-3529 or sroffe@cuedspeech.org; or the Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education at (855) 875-5193, toll-free or CDHHE@isdh.in.gov.



OFFERED IN
COOPERATION
WITH



Center for Deaf
and Hard of Hearing
Education

Introduction to Cued American English

Register at [Introduction to Cued American English registration](#).

For full details, visit [2018 Course Beginners](#).

Beyond Beginners

Register at [Cued American English Beyond Beginners registration](#).

For full details, visit [2018 CS and Beyond](#).



Everyday Play in Natural Environments

Support your child's early learning through everyday activities

Your baby is learning—about you, himself, and the world around him—from the moment he enters the world. The article below gives you some ideas of the many ways

you can support your child's early learning through your everyday activities. Visit [Zero to Three](#) for more information on early learning and healthy development.

Language and Communication

Babies express their needs and feelings through sounds and cries, body movements and facial expressions. Your baby will begin using words sometime around one year. By the time she is 3, she will be speaking in short (three- to five-word) sentences.

- **Watch and listen to see how your baby communicates** what she is thinking and feeling.
- **Repeat the sounds and words your child uses** and have back-and-forth conversations.
- **Read, sing and tell stories.** These are fun ways to help your child understand the meaning of new words and ideas.
- **Talk about what you do together**—as you play, do errands or visit friends and family.

Thinking Skills

Your child is learning how the world works by playing and exploring. Through play, babies and toddlers learn about how things work and how to be good problem-solvers.

- **Encourage your child to explore** toys in different ways—by touching, banging, stacking, shaking.
- **Turn everyday routines into playful learning moments.** For example, bath time is a chance to learn about ideas like sinking/floating and wet/dry.
- **Follow your child's interests.** Children learn best through activities that excite them.
- **Ask your child questions that get him thinking as he nears age 3.** For example, when reading a book together, ask *Why do you think the girl is laughing?*

Self-Control

Over the first three years, your child is beginning to develop self-control—the ability to manage his feelings and actions in acceptable ways. He is also learning to wait, share and work out problems with his friends.

- **Use words to help your child understand his feelings.** *You are really mad because we have to leave the park.*



- **Give choices to older toddlers.** *Would you like to read books before or after we brush teeth?*
- **Stay calm when your child is upset.** This helps him feel safe and get back in control.

Self-Confidence

Your child is learning that she is a very special person; that she is loved, smart, fun and capable.

When children feel good about themselves, they are more confident and willing to take on new challenges.

- **Comment on what your child does well.** *You found the button that makes the*

bear pop up!

- **Help your child be a good problem-solver.** Give her the support she needs to be successful without completely solving the problem for her.
- **Give your child the chance to do things for herself** like pouring milk from a small plastic pitcher.
- **Encourage your child to keep trying.** *You are working so hard to get the ball in the basket. Sometimes it takes lots of tries!*

[Download the PDF](#) of this article in English and Spanish for your families.



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**Division of Disability and
Rehabilitative Services**

**Indiana Family and Social Services
Administration**
Bureau of Child Development Services
402 W. Washington Street, W453
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Please send your suggestions and feedback to FirstStepsweb.fssa@fssa.in.gov.

We would like to include ideas from First Steps providers in upcoming newsletters! If you have an idea that works well with families or an article to share, please submit to: FirstStepsweb.fssa@fssa.in.gov.

Use your computer to read webpages out loud

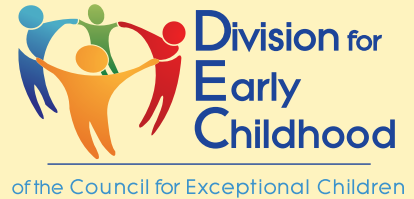
BrowseAloud is a suite of products that provides online reading support. BrowseAloud reads website content out loud, highlighting each word as it is spoken in a high-quality, human-sounding voice. Click on the BrowseAloud link that appears beside "Accessibility Tools" on the footer of the IN.gov website.

This will launch the BrowseAloud Plus toolbar. This toolbar provides speech at the touch of a button. For more information, visit [BrowseAloud](#).



DEC Recommended Practices

As we update our credential process, First Steps is aligning professional competency areas with DEC Recommended Practices. Please take a moment to read through them! Go to [Division for Early Childhood](#).



of the Council for Exceptional Children

Save the Date for the Conference!

The second annual First Steps conference will be held on June 13–14, 2019, at the Monroe Convention Center in Bloomington. This one-and-a-half



2019 CONFERENCE

JUNE 13–14, 2019 • BLOOMINGTON, IN

day conference will feature keynote speakers, dozens of breakout sessions and opportunities for networking and resource-gathering. For information about sponsorships, submitting a proposal and more, go to [First Steps Conference 2019](#).

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