



This e-newsletter offers brief updates on CEED people, projects, and events.

About CEED

Between January 2008 and January 2009, our website received nearly 2.5 million hits! Thanks, and please keep visiting.

Amy Susman-Stillman, one of CEED's Co-Directors, testified at a hearing for the House Early Childhood Policy and Finance Committee on January 22. She spoke about CEED's evaluation and coordination role for the Minnesota Early Learning Foundation (MELF) Grant Initiatives.

This Friday, February 6, Vicki Hawley, CEED Project Coordinator, will present on *Caring and Teaching: Intentional Interactions that Make a Difference* at the 2009 MNAEYC-MNSACA Conference in St. Paul, MN.

Projects

CEED has received a grant of \$19,341 from the Minnesota Department of Human Services to design a companion guide to the Minnesota Core Competencies for Early Childhood Education and Care Practitioners in Minnesota. This guide will define core competencies specifically for early childhood practitioners who work with infants and toddlers. Christopher Watson, Ph.D. is the Principal Investigator and Vicki Hawley is the Project Coordinator.

The Minnesota Early Learning Foundation (MELF) project wrapped up its fall data collection at the end of December. During that period, we successfully assessed 480 children and collected interview data from 280 of their parents who received services as part of the innovation grant portion of the MELF initiative. With the new year, we look forward to analyzing the results of that mountain of data, with an eye towards the annual report to be released by the MELF in late spring.

Publications and Web Updates

Did you know that our *Questions About Kids* flyers are available for free online, whenever you need them? These 2-sided informational sheets cover topics such as the important role of dads, helping young children become readers, and what it means when a child is assessed, among dozens of others. Many QAK are available in Spanish, Somali, and/or Hmong as well as English. Visit the [publications section of our website](#) to browse, download and share these flyers.

Professional Development

We're excited to announce another new online course: *Prenatal Developmental Interventions*. This course is grounded in the belief that pregnancy, regardless of the outcome, begins the parent-infant relationship. It is designed for family educators, social workers, health care providers, and others working with families during childbearing to facilitate positive parent-baby interactions beginning in the prenatal period. This course will be open for enrollment starting in Summer, 2009. For more information on this and our many ongoing online courses, visit the [professional development section of our website](#).

Events

Register now for the Harris Forum! On May 14, 2009, Sheree Toth (Mt. Hope Family Center, University of Rochester) will present *Bridging Research and Practice: Relational Interventions for At-Risk Infants and Toddlers*. In her many years of clinical work, Dr. Toth has been committed to applying research findings to real-world settings. To learn more and register online, visit the [Harris Forum website](#).

This year's Strong Foundations Conference took place from January 15-17, 2009 at Cragun's Resort in Brainerd, MN. In spite of record cold temperatures across the state, the event drew well over 300 participants. We hope you'll join us in 2010!

Partners and Links

Please visit the CEED website, <http://cehd.umn.edu/ceed>, for ongoing listings of job opportunities with partnering organizations and individuals.

CEED Sampler is compiled and distributed by the [Center for Early Education and Development](#) at the University of Minnesota. Editor: Sara Zettervall (sarazet@umn.edu; 612-625-2252). To be removed from the newsletter mailing list, please e-mail ander352@umn.edu with "Unsubscribe, CEED email list" in the subject line. The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.