

# ECI LIBRARY MATTERS

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## Toys and Children's Literature

*Just in time for the holidays, we are featuring information about toys and also children's books and audiovisuals related to early childhood intervention, plus related websites.*

*Check out the new additions to the collection on page 10!*

## Toys - Books

**Joyful Play with Toddlers: Recipes for Fun with Odds and Ends.** Sandi Dexter, 1995. (655 D528 1995 ECI).

This book is full of practical ideas for making toys and games with household items.

**The New Language of Toys: Teaching Communication Skills to Children with Special Needs.** Sue Schwartz, 2004. (535 S399n 2004 ECI).

This book explains how to use everyday toys, both store-bought and homemade, to stimulate language development in children with special needs from birth through age six.

**Oppenheim Toy Portfolio: The Best Toys, Books, Videos, Music and Software for Kids.** Joanne Oppenheim and Stephanie Oppenheim, 2005. (655 O62t 2005 ECI).

This book takes the guesswork out of finding the best toys, books, DVDs and music for children from infancy to age ten. This guide includes learning toys, brand-name comparisons, gift ideas, products for kids with special needs, and more.

**The Right Stuff for Children Birth to Eight: Selecting Play Materials to Support Development.** Martha B. Bronson, 1995. (655.2 B869 1995 ECI).

This book presents the play and learning materials most beneficial for children from early infancy through the primary grades. It describes developmental activities, by ages, and what items are needed for each activity.

## Toys - Audiovisuals

**Safe from the Start.** 30 min. 2005. (DD0037).

This program covers toy safety and provides practical advice for keeping children safe both inside and outside the home. This is also available in Spanish as *Seguros Desde el Inicio*. (DD0038).

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## Children's Fiction - Picture Books

**A: You're Adorable.** Martha Alexander, 1998. (805.1 A352 1998 ECI).

This alphabet book for young children, which is illustrated by Martha Alexander, is based on the 1948 song *A: You're Adorable*, with words and music by Buddy Kaye, Fred Wise, and Sidney Lippman.

**Andy and His Yellow Frisbee.** Mary Thompson, 1996. (805.1 T474a 1996 ECI).

This is a children's story about Andy, a boy with autism, who is fascinated with objects in motion. It is his obsession with spinning a frisbee and a new classmate's curiosity about his actions that sets the story in motion. Rosie, his protective sister, supplies background information on Andy and autism, as well as a sibling's perspective.

**Ben, King of the River.** David Gifaldi, 2001. (805.1 G456 2001 ECI).

In this story, Chad experiences a range of emotions when he goes camping with his parents and his five-year-old brother, Ben, who has many developmental concerns.

**Benjamin Comes Back / Benjamin Regresa.** Amy Brandt, 2000. (805.1 B821 2000 ECI).

In this book, which is written in English and Spanish, Benjamin misses his mother after she drops him at day care, but thinking about coming back tomorrow reassures him that she will come back as well.

**The Best Worst Brother.** Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen, 2005. (805.1 S937b 2005 ECI).

Older sister Emma tries to be patient while teaching three-year-old Isaac, who has Down syndrome, how to communicate using sign language. The book includes questions and answers about sign language.

**Big Brother Dustin.** Alden R. Carter, 1997. (805.1 C323 1997 ECI).

A boy with Down syndrome helps his parents and grandparents get ready for the birth of his baby sister and chooses the perfect name for her.

**NEW! Big Sister Now: A Story about Me and Our New Baby.** Annette Sheldon, 2006. (805.1 S544b 2006 ECI).

A little girl gets used to sharing her parents with her baby brother and realizes there are some benefits to being a big sister now.

**The Brand New Kid.** Katie Couric, 2000. (805.1 C859 2000 ECI).

This book, which is about friendship and overcoming the first day in a new school, is the story of how a new student and a classmate taught the rest of their classmates about accepting people who are different.

**Brave Bear.** Kathy Mallat, 1999. (805.1 M253 1999 ECI).

Bear wants to help the baby bird get back to its nest, but he isn't sure he can do it because the tree is so tall and he is so small. But he'll try.

**Brianna Breathes Easy: A Story about Asthma.** Virginia L. Kroll, 2005. (805.1 K93b 2005 ECI).

Brianna is excited about playing the lead in the school play, but when a terrible coughing fit sends her to the emergency room a few days before the show, Brianna learns that she has asthma and how to control it.

**Can't You Be Still?** Sarah Yates, 1992. (805.1 Y34c 1992 RHB).

This is the story of a little girl with cerebral palsy and her experiences in preschool. Her disability is explained in simple terms. She becomes a heroine when she helps others in the water.

**Dad and Me in the Morning.** Patricia Lakin, 1994. (805.1 L192 1994 ECI).

A boy who is deaf and his father share a special time as they watch the sunrise at the beach together.

**Dina the Deaf Dinosaur.** Carole Addabbo, 1998. (805.1 A222d 1998 ECI).

This story is about a dinosaur who is deaf and runs away from home because her parents would not learn sign language. She befriends an owl, a mole, and a chipmunk.

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## Children's Fiction - Picture Books (continued)

**NEW! Eating Gluten-free with Emily: A Story for Children with Celiac Disease.** Bonnie J. Kruszka, 2004. (805.1 K94e 2004 ECI).

This story is about a happy, active five-year-old who finds out she has celiac disease. She has to eat a gluten-free diet to stay healthy. The child explains the diagnostic process and how to handle eating different food.

**Eddie Enough!** Debbie Zimmet, 2001. (805.1 Z72 2001 ECI).

Third-grader Eddie Minetti is always getting in trouble at school until his ADHD is diagnosed and treated.

**NEW! Evan Early.** Rebecca Hogue Wojahn, 2006. (805.1 W847e 2006).

When Natalie's baby brother is born too soon, she tries to wait patiently to teach him everything he will need to know, but she misses her parents and begins to resent the time they spend with him at the hospital.

**NEW! Finding the Right Spot: When Kids Can't Live with Their Parents.** Janice Levy, 2004. (805.1 L668f 2004).

A young girl living with her foster parent describes the emotional ups and downs of being separated from her mother and living in unfamiliar surroundings.

**Gentle Willow: A Story for Children about Dying.** Joyce C. Mills, 1993. (805.1 M657 1993 ECI).

Amanda is upset that she is going to lose her friend Gentle Willow, but the Tree Wizards help her understand that her memories are gifts from her friend and that there are special ways of saying goodbye.

**Goodnight, Daddy.** Angela Seward, 2001. (805.1 S514 2001 ECI).

Eight-year-old Phoebe looks forward to a visit from her absent father and must deal with her disappointment when "something comes up" and he must postpone his visit.

**Hamster Camp.** Teresa Bateman, 2005. (805.1 B328h 2005 ECI).

Concerned about Harry's weight gain and lack of exercise, his pet hamster arranges for Harry to spend a month at a unique camp, where Harry is transformed into someone who understands that eating right and staying in shape can be fun.

**Here's What I Mean to Say...** Sarah Yates, 1997. (805.1 Y34h 1997 ECI).

In this book about Ann, a girl growing up with cerebral palsy, Ann's father gives her a special computer which says the words she types, thereby letting her say what she means to say.

**Hooray for Harold: Dealing with Hearing Loss.** (805.1 H789 1997 ECI).

This is the story of Harold, the mouse, who gets to wear hearing aids after his hearing loss is detected by the doctor. Harold's friends tease him about the hearing aids, but when he uses them to discover his friend nearly drowning, and saves his life, Harold becomes a hero.

**How Many Days until Tomorrow?** Caroline Janover, 1997. (805.1 H789 1997 ECI).

In this story Josh, who has dyslexia, spends the summer on Seal Island off the coast of Maine and finds that he has hidden talents that help him prove himself to his gruff grandfather and bookish older brother.

**I Can, Can You?** Marjorie W. Pitzer, 2004. (805.1 P692i 2004 ECI).

Come along with these babies and toddlers with Down syndrome as they discover their world and enjoy new experiences. This board book is filled with colorful photographs.

**I Can't Stop!: A Story about Tourette Syndrome.** Holly L. Niner, 2005. (805.1 N714i 2005 ECI).

A boy is diagnosed with Tourette syndrome and learns about constructive ways he can manage his condition. The book includes one page of nonfiction information from a physician.

**I Feel Different: A Book about Being Adopted.** Kathy Stinson, 1998. (805.1 S859 1998 ECI).

A little boy thinks about his birth mother from time to time wondering where she is, what she's like and why she gave him away. He thinks he might look for her when he's older, but his real family is the one he's always known and loved.

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## Children's Fiction - Picture Books (continued)

**I Love You, Little One.** Nancy Tafuri, 1999. (805.1 T124 1999 ECI).

In this young child's board book, six animals and one child are reassured by their mother of the many ways they are loved.

**Ian's Walk: A Story about Autism.** Laurie Lears, 1998. (805.1 L438 1998 ECI).

A young girl realizes how much she cares about her brother who has autism when he gets lost at the park.

**If You Listen.** Charlotte Zolotow, 2002. (805.1 Z86 2002 ECI).

In this story, which embraces life and love, the mother explains to the little girl how to listen to hear with her heart that her father, who has been away a long time, still loves her.

**NEW! Imagine a Rainbow.** Brenda S. Miles, 2006. (805.1 M643i 2006 ECI).

This book describes how thinking of pleasant images and favorite things can help children deal with pain. It includes a section that advises parents how they can help their child manage pain.

**Keisha's Doors / Las Puertas de Keisha.** Marvie Ellis and Jenny Loehr, 2005. (805.1 E47k 2005 ECI).

An older sister can't understand why her little sister, Keisha, won't play with her. The family finds out that Keisha has autism and goes to see a therapist to understand what autism means to them. The story is told in English on one side of the page and Spanish on the other.

**The Kissing Hand.** Audrey Penn, 1993. (805.1 P412 1993 ECI).

When Chester the raccoon is reluctant to go to kindergarten for the first time, his mother teaches him a secret way to carry her love with him. Also available in Spanish as *Un Beso en Mi Mano*.

**Lee, the Rabbit with Epilepsy.** Deborah M. Moss, 1989. (805.1 M913L 1989 ECI).

This story follows Lee from her first seizure, to the doctor's office, and then home with new medication to control her seizures. It's a reassuring tale for young children with epilepsy.

**The Legendary Blobshocker.** Ryan Wilson, 1999. (805.1 W752L 1999 ECI).

This colorful storybook is written and illustrated by a nine-year-old, high-functioning boy with autism who has a delightful personality and great imagination. The author, a fourth grader, participated in the "Image-Making Within The Writing Process" which is an innovative approach to teaching essential literacy skills through a dynamic integration of collage art into the Language Arts curriculum.

**The Lion Who Had Asthma.** Jonathan London, 1992. (805.1 L847 1992 ECI).

This story is about Sean's nebulizer mask and how his imagination aids in his recovery following an asthma attack. It also includes information on childhood asthma and how to control its symptoms.

**The Little Elephant with the Big Earache.** Charlotte Cowan, 2004. (805.1 C874e 2004 ECI).

This book uses charming illustrations to describe what happens when a small elephant has an earache and goes to the doctor. Also included is a laminated parent's guide containing a concise, easy to read summary on earaches.

**Little Rainman: Autism: Through the Eyes of a Child.** Karen L. Simmons, 1996. (805.1 S592L 1996 ECI).

This picture book, written by a mother as if the child is speaking, describes how a child with autism feels about his environment and its sensory challenges. The author wrote this book to help children with autism along with their parents, teachers, and siblings understand as early as possible the real 'world of autism' and to encourage them to get help as early as possible for a better prognosis. It is also available in Spanish as *El Pequeno Rainman*.

**The Making of My Special Hand: Madison's Story.** Jamee Riggio Heelan and Nicola Simmonds, 1998. (805.1 H458m 1998 ECI).

A child who was born with one hand tells the story of how people at the hospital made a helper hand for her, how the new hand operates, how it feels, and how she can use it.

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## Children's Fiction - Picture Books (continued)

**Mama Zooms.** Jane Cowen-Fletcher, 1993. (805.1 C874 1993 RHB).

This is a story of the experiences a little boy and his mother, who uses a wheelchair, have when the boy sits in his mother's lap and rides with her on her wheelchair.

**Moses Goes to a Concert.** Isaac Millman, 1998. (805.1 M655 1998 ECI).

In this story Moses and his schoolmates, who are all deaf, attend a concert where the orchestra's percussionist is also deaf. There are illustrations in sign language and a page showing the manual alphabet.

**NEW! My Baby Sister Is a Premie.** Diana M. Amadeo, 2005. (805.1 A481m 2005 ECI).

When her baby sister is born too soon, Sarah does not understand what is going on until a nurse explains the tubes and wires and her mother reminds her that God is with tiny Amy, even in the hospital.

**My Friend Isabelle.** Eliza Woolson, 2003. (805.1 W866m 2003 ECI).

A young boy named Charlie describes the activities he shares with his friend Isabelle, a girl with Down syndrome.

**My Grampy Can't Walk.** Vanita Oelschlager, 2006. (805.1 O29m 2006 ECI).

Grampy cannot walk anymore because he has multiple sclerosis. This book uses colorful illustrations to show that using a wheelchair does not slow him down, nor his grandchildren. Together, they go places, do things and learn about life.

**My Pal, Victor/Mi Amigo, Victor.** Diane Gonzales Bertrand, 2004. (805.1 B548m 2004 ECI).

Two boys experience carefree camaraderie despite one boy's disability. Fun and friendship overpower physical limitations. The story is presented in English and Spanish.

**Nathan's Wish: A Story about Cerebral Palsy.** Laurie Lears and Stacey Schuett, 2005. (805.1 L438n 2005 ECI).

A boy with cerebral palsy helps out at a raptor rehabilitation center and is inspired himself when an owl that cannot fly finds another purpose in life.

**No Fair to Tigers: No es Justo para los Tigres.** Eric Hoffman, 1999. (805.1 H699 1999 ECI).

After she fixes up her ragged stuffed toy, Old Tiger, with the help of all her family members, Mandy takes him to the pet store for tiger food but finds that she cannot get her wheelchair inside because of the steps out front. This story is presented in English and Spanish on the same page.

**Nobody Knows!** Sarah Yates, 1994. (805.1 Y34n 1994 RHB).

This is the second book in the series about Ann, a little girl of six with cerebral palsy. Ann and her friend, Jay who is disguised as a clown, go to the park to see animals and eat their picnic lunch without asking her Mom's permission to leave her backyard. They are later found by the frantic mom and return home.

**Oh, Brother!: Growing Up with A Special Needs Sibling.** Natalie Hale, 2004. (805.1 H163 2004 ECI).

An eleven-year-old girl finds ways to handle the unique challenges presented by her thirteen-year-old brother who has special needs by looking for his good qualities and taking the rest in stride.

**NEW! Otto the Blind Otter.** Susan Purkapile and Barbara Ducommun, 2004. (805.1 P985o 2004 ECI).

Otto's brothers do not want to play with him because of his blindness. After Otto gets lost, his mother insists they all play together, and Oliver and Otis soon learn that Otto is special in more than one way.

**NEW! The Pigeon Has Feelings, Too: A Smidgeon of a Pigeon.** Mo Willems, 2005. (805.1 W699p 2005 ECI).

Bus Driver tries to get Pigeon to make a happy face. Pigeon has other ideas. Feelings such as happy, sad, and angry stand out in bold colors.

**Robert Lives with His Grandparents.** Martha W. Hickman, 1995. (805.1 H628 1995 ECI).

In this story Robert is embarrassed to admit to his classmates that he has lived with his grandparents ever since his parents' divorce.

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## Children's Fiction - Picture Books (continued)

**Rolling Along: The Story of Taylor and His Wheelchair.** Jamee Riggio Heelan and Nicola Simmonds, 2000. (804 H458r 2000 ECI).

This children's book explains how having cerebral palsy affects Taylor and how getting a wheelchair makes a big difference in helping him get around, do things by himself, and even play basketball with his twin Tyler.

**Rolling Along with Goldilocks and the Three Bears.** Cindy Meyers, 1999. (805.1 M613 1999 ECI).

In this updated version of a familiar folktale, Baby Bear gets around in a wheelchair and has a motorized bed which fascinates Goldilocks when she becomes friends with him after her surprise visit to the Three Bears' house.

**Russ and the Almost Perfect Day.** Janet E. Rickert, 2000. (805.1 R539 2000 ECI).

Russ, a student with Down syndrome, is having a perfect day until he realizes that the five-dollar bill he has found probably belongs to a classmate.

**Russ and the Apple Tree Surprise.** Janet E. Rickert, 1999. (805.1 R539 1999 ECI).

After Russ, a five-year-old with Down syndrome, picks a basket of apples and helps his mother and grandmother bake a pie, his grandfather invites him into the backyard for a surprise.

**Russ and the Firehouse.** Janet E. Rickert, 2000. (805.1 R539 2000 ECI).

Russ, a five-year-old with Down syndrome, visits his uncle's firehouse and gets to help with the daily chores.

**Shelley the Hyperactive Turtle.** Deborah M. Moss and Carol Schwartz, 2006. (805.1 M913 2006 ECI).

This story is about the challenges that face Shelley and his family because of his hyperactivity. From Shelley's initial visit to the doctor, through his diagnosis and treatment, the book explains hyperactivity directly to children with a positive yet realistic look.

**Smiling.** Gwenyth Swain, 1999. (804 S971 1999 ECI).

This children's picture book explores the importance of smiling to people all over the world. It includes photographs of smiling children and rhyming text.

**Tacos Anyone?: An Autism Story / Alguien Quiere Tacos? : Una Historia de Autismo.** Marvie Ellis, 2005. (805.1 E47t 2005 ECI).

Michael is a four year old boy with autism. His older brother, Thomas, doesn't understand why Michael behaves the way he does. The service provider teaches Thomas how to play with Michael, making sibling time fun again. The story is presented in English and Spanish on the same page.

**Tanya and the Tobo Man: A Story for Children Entering Therapy.** Lesley Koplow, 1991. (805.1 K83 1991 ECI).

Tanya's continuing fear of the Tobo Man leads her mother to start her in therapy at a children's mental health center, where she discovers how to express her feelings and eventually loses her fear. This story is presented in English and Spanish on the same page.

**Tell Me Something Happy before I Go to Sleep.** Joyce Dunbar, 1998. (805.1 D898 1998 ECI).

Willa has trouble falling asleep until her brother reminds her of all the happy things that await her in the morning.

**The Upside Down Boy: El Nino de Cabeza.** Juan F. Herrera, 2000. (800.5 H565 2000 ECI).

The author of this book for children tells about the year his farm worker parents settle down in the city so he can go to school for the first time. The story is presented in English on one side of the page and Spanish on the other.

**We'll Paint the Octopus Red.** Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen, 1998. (805.1 S937w 1998).

This is a children's story about a six-year-old girl, Emma, who is anxiously waiting for the birth of her new sibling. She anticipates all of the things they will do together. When her little brother Isaac is born with Down syndrome, Emma senses her father's concern and she wonders if her brother will be able to do all of the things she has planned. Emma and her father realize Isaac is the baby they have been dreaming of, and with her help and patience there probably isn't anything Isaac can't do.

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## Children's Fiction - Picture Books (continued)

**What's Wrong with Timmy?** Maria Shriver, 2001. (805.1 S561 2001 ECI).

Making friends with a boy who has cognitive disabilities helps Kate learn that the two of them have a lot in common.

**When Eric's Mom Fought Cancer.** Judith Vigna, 1993. (805.1 V678 1993 ECI).

In this story, a ski trip with his father helps a young boy who feels angry and afraid after his mother gets sick with breast cancer.

**When Someone Dies.** Sharon Greenlee, 1992. (805.1 G814 1992 ECI).

In this book the author, who is also a counselor, presents suggestions for dealing with the feelings of confusion and hurt felt by children and adults when someone dies.

**Where's Chimp?** Berneice Rabe, 1988. (805.1 R114 1988 ECI).

Text and photographs show Misty, a little girl with Down syndrome, and her father reviewing her day's activities in their search for her stuffed monkey.

## Books for Older Children

**David's Secret Soccer Goals.** Caroline Levine, 2004. (805.1 L665 2004 ECI).

David is much like any other boy who loves playing soccer, but when the chance comes up to go and stay at camp, David has to face up to his biggest embarrassment, wetting the bed. The story delicately highlights the fears and worries that a child in this position has, while offering practical advice on how to deal positively with the situation.

**My Sister Annie.** Bill Dodds, 1993. (805.2 D661 1993 ECI).

Growing up, trying to be accepted, and having a sister with Down syndrome make life a challenge for Charlie.

**Of Mice and Aliens: An Asperger Adventure.** Kathy Hoopmann, 2001. (805 H798 2001 ECI).

In this book Ben, who is learning to cope with his newly diagnosed Asperger syndrome, and Andy, his best friend, discover an alien that has crash landed in Ben's backyard. They are faced with a problem of how to help the alien they name Zeke. Can Zeke be trusted?

## Children's Videos

**If I Ran the Zoo: Stories for Your Deaf Child.** 32 min. 1998. (VT2497).

This well-known book written by Dr. Seuss is shown, narrated in English, and at the same time is signed by Thomas K. Holcomb using American Sign Language for children who are deaf.

**Once Upon A Time...Video 1: The Little Mermaid.** 35 min. 1991. (VT0600).

In this video, the fairy tale is told through narration, cartoon drawings, and sign language with facial and body gestures by Ben Bahan.

**Once Upon A Time...Video 4: The Musicians of Bremen, Repunzel, and Sleeping Beauty.** 45 min. 1991. (VT0601).

In this video, three fairy tales are told through narration, cartoon drawings, and sign language with facial and body gestures by Ben Bahan and Nathie Marbury.

**Sharing the Joy of Storytelling with Your Deaf Toddler.** 23 min. 1995. (VT2498).

In this video, fluent signers tell stories that will help you learn and provide stimulating entertainment for your children. Using a variety of popular children's books, this video demonstrates how to use your face and body to animate the story, how to simplify the language and sign concepts in a clear, visual manner, and how to position the book and sign to your child.

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## Children's Videos (continued)

**Show 'N' Tell Stories: A Bilingual Storytelling Series for Deaf Children and Their Families.** 30 min. 1993. (VT1119).

In this video, two children's stories: *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* and *This is Me* are told in American Sign Language and Signing Exact English with the books' illustrations visible in the upper right corner of the screen. This program is not for beginning sign language students.

**Where the Wild Things Are and More Bunny Trouble: Stories for Your Deaf Preschooler.** 32 min. 1996. (VT2499).

These two very popular stories are narrated in English and are signed in ASL by Thomas K. Holcomb and Franky Ramont to entertain deaf preschoolers and to help improve the viewer's storytelling skills.

## Children's CD

**Let's Sing Together / Vamos A Cantar Juntos.** compact disc. 2005. (535 H221 2000).

This CD contains ten simple songs for children sung in English and Spanish by Sally Hamilton.

## Teaching with Children's Literature

**Developmental Disability in Children's Literature: Issues and Annotated Bibliography.** Tina Taylor Dyches and Mary Anne Prater. (805 D994 2000 ECI)

This book discusses the use of characters with disabilities in children's literature. It presents a comprehensive list of books with detailed descriptions. The bibliography is divided into fictional picture books and fictional chapter books.

Appl, D.J., & Pratt, T. (2007). Children's Books as a Vehicle for Teaching Teachers Ways to Help Children Value Differences. *Young Exceptional Children*, 10(4), 2-10.

Contact the library at (512) 458-7260, toll-free 1-888-963-7111 ext. 7260 to see a copy of this article.

## Selected Websites

**Publishers of children's literature, especially related to children with disabilities:**

Jessica Kingsley Publishers: <http://www.jkp.com/catalogue/index.php/cat/fiction>

Woodbine House Publishers: <http://www.woodbinehouse.com/>

**More children's literature (awards and research):**

American Library Association: <http://www.ala.org> Type "children's books" in search box at top to find list of 2007 notable children's books and a link to past editions of the list. There is also a bibliography of children's books about the disability experience.

Dolly Gray Award for Children's Literature in Developmental Disabilities, sponsored by The Council for Exceptional Children's Division on Developmental Disabilities and Special Needs Project [http://www.dddcec.org/secondarypages/dollygray/Dolly\\_Gray\\_Children's\\_Literature\\_Award.html](http://www.dddcec.org/secondarypages/dollygray/Dolly_Gray_Children's_Literature_Award.html)

Full-text research articles on the topic of Disability Culture in Children's Literature from Disability Studies Quarterly are available at [http://www.dsqsds.org/childrens\\_lit.html](http://www.dsqsds.org/childrens_lit.html) The aim of the special issue is "to present a range of perspectives on the status of disability portrayals in the expanding world of children's literature for scholars in both children's literature and disability studies."



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**Information on toys:**

Toy recall list by the Consumer Product Safety Commission, listed by most recent recall first:

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/category/toy.html>

Here is a link to a website that rates toys for children with disabilities:

<http://www.ableplay.org/>

Top 10 tips for choosing toys for children with special needs from the National Lekotek Center:

<http://www.lekotek.org/resources/informationontoystentips.html>

Accessible toys: See "Let's Play" A Guide to Toys for Children with Special Needs:

<http://www.ataccess.org/resources/fpic/accesstoys/>

Adapting toys: Suggestions from Arizona State University:

[http://www.asu.edu/clas/tnt/home\\_files/i\\_play.html](http://www.asu.edu/clas/tnt/home_files/i_play.html)

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## New Additions - Books

**Cortical Visual Impairment: An Approach to Assessment and Intervention.** Christine Roman-Lantzy, 2007. (219.13 R758c 2007 ECI)

The current leading cause of visual impairment among children is not a disease or condition of the eyes, but cortical visual impairment (CVI) -- also known as cerebral visual impairment -- in which visual dysfunction is caused by damage or injury to the brain. The author has developed a set of unique assessment tools and systematic, targeted principles whose use has helped children learn to use their vision more effectively. This resource provides readers with both a conceptual framework with which to understand working with CVI and concrete strategies to apply directly in their work.

**A Parents' Guide to Special Education for Children with Visual Impairments.** Susan LaVenture, 2007. (219.13 P228 2007 ECI)

This handbook for parents, family members, and caregivers of children with visual impairments explains special education services that these children are likely to need and to which they are entitled and how to make sure that they receive them. This resource addresses the effect of visual impairment on a child's ability to learn and the services and educational programming that are essential for optimal learning. It is intended to help parents ensure that their children receive the best education possible.

**Tactile Strategies for Children Who Have Visual Impairments and Multiple Disabilities: Promoting Communication and Learning Skills.** June E. Downing, 2006. (219.13 C518t 2006 ECI)

In order to promote their growth, development, and ability to communicate, young children who are visually impaired and have additional disabilities need to learn to use their sense of touch effectively and develop skills that are not necessarily based on the use of vision. This new manual provides essential information about alternative communication and countless practical strategies and insights to create effective solutions for working with children. Teachers, early interventionists, and parents will find valuable techniques on topics ranging from how to assess a child's tactile skills to how to interact effectively with children and plan interventions.

**Teaching Social Skills to Students with Visual Impairments: From Theory to Practice.** Sharon Sacks and Karen E. Wolffe, 2006. (219.13 T253 2006 ECI)

When a child is unable to observe visually and imitate how other people react, this complex developmental process can become fragmented and incomplete. As a result, providing specific information, direct instruction, and opportunities for social interaction to children who are blind or visually impaired is critical to their growth and education. This book explores what theory says about how children who are visually impaired become socially skilled individuals. It presents a compendium of techniques and strategies for helping youngsters, from preschoolers through young adults, including those with additional disabilities, develop and refine social skills.

## New Additions - Audiovisuals

**Listening Heart.** 37 min. 2005. (DD0147)

This DVD chronicles the day to day life of four adoptive families who are raising children with fetal alcohol syndrome. Dr. Ira J. Chasnoff provides background medical information.

**Raising a Child with Down Syndrome.** 27 min. 2006. (DD0142)

In this DVD, children with Down syndrome and their families share their experiences. Doctors explain what Down syndrome is and give advice.

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Early Childhood Report - November 2007

# Early CHILDHOOD Report

Children With Special Needs & Their Families

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2007

## LEGAL SPOTLIGHT

### You Be the Judge

Do child's crying spells justify removal from her local school? **Page 2**

### Washington Watch

Find out how Higher Education Act reauthorization may bolster professional development for early childhood educators; see why OSEP has put on hold an LRE monitoring requirement for preschool settings. **Page 3**

### Decisions & Guidance

Read the latest early childhood judicial rulings and SEA decisions. **Pages 10-12**

### Part C Primer

Proposed IDEA Part C Section 303.320(c) clarifies that an assessment of a child should include identification of the family's resources, priorities and concerns and the supports and services necessary to enhance the family's capacity to meet the child's developmental needs. This should be determined through the use of an assessment tool and a voluntary personal interview with the family.

## COVER STORY

### What would happen if RTI entered early childhood arena?

NIAGARA FALLS, Ontario — The push to implement response-to-intervention models in school districts nationwide has touched off concern in the early childhood world about the impending pressure to apply the practice to preschoolers. Experts recently mapped the potential implications RTI would have on early childhood screening and progress monitoring and discussed the forthcoming difficulties associated with staffing and accountability at the 23rd annual conference of the **Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children**. See conference coverage, pages 4-5.

#### Conference report

- Learn why calling young children "non-responders" under RTI would be a mistake. **Page 4**
- See why play-based assessments can help you uncover a child's diverse needs and illustrate these challenges to doubtful parents. **Page 5**

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Eye on Autism: Become attuned to music therapy

Learn why music therapy can improve the communication, social-emotional and abstract thinking skills of young children with autism. **Page 6**

### Consider culture's effect on mental health screening

See why you should use a culturally sensitive mental health screening tool to ensure you are distinguishing divergent cultural customs from challenging behaviors. **Page 7**

### Glean early childhood inclusion best practices

Find out how you can emulate an award-winning special ed director's solutions for early childhood inclusion. **Page 8**

### Specialized preschools may face more litigation

See why you may have more options for placing preschoolers with multiple disabilities after a landmark settlement recently afforded a deaf student with autism and cognitive disabilities the chance to learn in a state school for the deaf. **Page 9**

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