



Come Grow with Us!

WV State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) Implementation Team Overview

Implementation Team: Autism

Background: In Phase I of the SSIP, data analysis revealed children on the Autism Spectrum are among those children who made much less progress in the national child outcome area of social emotional than their same age peers. This might be expected due to the characteristics of the diagnosis but recent research tell us, that intervening early and with evidenced based practices, we may assist more children in making meaningful progress.

The Autism team is charged with developing strategies to successfully implement a professional development plan to provide access to evidenced based practices through the dissemination of information, linkages to resources and training on supporting toddlers on the Autism Spectrum.

Implementation activities include:

- 1) Providing input into the design of an “Autism” link on the WV Birth to Three website to house research, guidance and resources.
- 2) Assisting with the development of a series of Blackboard courses on key considerations for supporting toddlers with Autism, including pre-post-tests.
- 3) Reviewing data collected including: 1) feedback on” Autism link”, 2) pre-post test scores, 3) training evaluations, and 4) provider survey results to evaluate the effectiveness of the professional development activities.
- 4) Providing recommendations in regards to funding a Train the Trainer in the use of Early Denver Model.
- 5) Provide on-going updates to state SSIP Leadership Team on the successes and potential barriers in the implementation of the improvement strategies for sharing with key stakeholders.

Implementation Team Lead is Dr. Jennifer McFarland- Whisman at mcfarlan@marshall.edu

Autism Implementation Team Members

Cindy LeGrand, SLP	Naomi Hansen, ICC, Parent	Gloria Sage, ATC
Sheila Zickefoose, DS	Pat Elliott, ICC, Parent	Erin Lash, ATC
Holly Rhinehart, DS, Preschool	Tammy Haffer, Nurse, Parent	Lashanna Brunson, PBS-CED
Karen Randolph, SLP, Preschool	Pam Roush, BTT State Staff	Mel Woodcock, BTT State Staff