

FYI Newsletter August 1, 2016



[Indiana Institute on Disability and Community](#)



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UPCOMING



PECS Level 1 Training – A Two-Day Workshop

The Institute's [Indiana Resource Center for Autism](#) will hold a two-day workshop, September 12-13, 2016 in Carmel, Indiana focusing on the [Picture Exchange Communication System](#) (PECS). PECS is a language training package that is used to teach communication skills rapidly to those with limited functional speech. PECS promotes communication within a social context, without lengthy prerequisite training. Training in PECS begins by teaching a spontaneous request and goes on to teach additional communicative functions such as responding to questions and commenting. An added attraction for preschool children with autism and related disabilities is the high proportion of children who acquire independent speech.

Participants will learn how to implement the six phases of PECS, including attributes, through presenter demonstrations, video examples and role-play opportunities. Participants will leave the workshop with an understanding of how to implement PECS with individuals with autism, related developmental disabilities, and/or limited communication skills.

Registration fee for this workshop is \$375.00. This fee includes all materials and a manual (\$76 value). All registrations are processed online by Indiana University Conferences. You may pay with a credit card or purchase order. Space is limited to 40 participants.



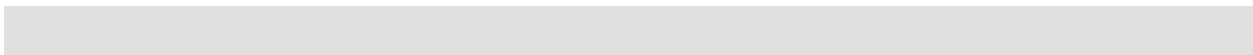
Also Coming in September...

The [Indiana Resource Center for Autism](#) will also host a one-day workshop presented by Jed Baker titled [All Kids Can Succeed: Effective Interventions for Behavioral and Social Challenges](#), on September 22, 2016 in Newburgh, IN.

Students on the autism spectrum and others with behavioral challenges often present with difficulty regulating their feelings and interacting socially. This workshop describes how to handle meltdowns and design effective behavior plans to prevent these moments and reduce frustration and anxiety. The second part of the presentation details strategies to motivate students to learn, ways to teach social skills, how to generalize skills into the natural setting and increase acceptance and tolerance from peers. Information will be imparted through lecture, interactive exercises, and video clips.

Registration fee for this workshop is \$100.00. All registrations are processed online by Indiana University (IU) Conferences. You may pay with a credit card or purchase order.

ACROSS THE COURTYARD





Welcome Erica Macke

The Institute's Center on [Community Living and Careers](#) would like to welcome Erica Macke, M.Ed., to the staff. Macke will serve as a project coordinator, Center on Teacher Quality. The Center on Teacher Quality is a new initiative designed to construct a professional learning framework to support systemic educational improvement throughout the state of Indiana with a focus on improved outcomes for students with disabilities through improved teacher quality.

Macke holds a Bachelor's degree in Health Services from the University of Southern Indiana and a Master's in Special Education from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in 2001. She joins the Center after 15 years in special education, serving three of those years as the transition coordinator for Avon Community Schools. She is currently completing the director of special needs program at Indiana University and will pursue a doctoral program in 2017.



Welcome Brady Tragesser

Also joining the staff of the [Center on Community Living and Careers](#) is Brady Tragesser. Tragesser spent the last 12 years working in the field of special education. He started as a classroom teacher and has worked in public education school settings at all levels including a private collegiate level behavioral support program, and with college faculty and students at Indiana University Bloomington.

Tragesser will also work as a project coordinator within the Indiana Center on Teacher Quality. He received his Bachelor's and Master's Degree from Indiana University in Speech and Hearing Sciences and Special Education and his School Administrator's Licensure from Lamar University.

IN BLOOMINGTON



Bloomington Council on Community Accessibility Celebration

[Katie Herron](#), Research Associate with the Indiana Institute's [Early Childhood Center](#), participated in the [Council for Community Accessibility's](#) (CCA) celebration of the 26th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) on Monday, July 25th in the Atrium at City Hall in Bloomington.

AccessAbility decals were awarded to Bloomington businesses who were surveyed and found to be ADA-compliant and a new version of the decal was unveiled. Herron, chair of the CCA, gave a speech in which she said, "Yes, you are following the law, but that decal on your door means so much more than that. You are saying that you are an ally. You will not put barriers in

my son's path... You welcome ALL people. And with everything going on in the world, that is worthy of celebration."



Bloomington Boogies

Mark your calendars for August 14 and 15, 2016 and plan to attend the [Bloomington Blues & Boogie Woogie Piano Festival](#). The festival is an annual music and dance event held in Bloomington, Indiana, that features widely acclaimed blues and boogie woogie piano players, professional swing dancers, food, and beverages. The festival includes free and ticketed performances at multiple venues as well as free educational components.

Ticketed performances are on Sunday, August 14 at the Ivy Tech John Waldron Arts Center followed by informal performances with no cover charge at Bloomington Boogies After Hours at Malibu Grill on the Square and GRAZIE! Italiano. The festival concludes with a free concert at Templeton Elementary School on Monday, August 15, followed by a free workshop for young piano students. The Indiana Institute is a proud supporter of this event.

LIBRARY CORNER



Library Corner

- Heighway, S. M., & Webster, S. K. (2015). *Relationship building and sexual awareness for kids with autism: S.T.A.R.S. 2*. Arlington, TX: Future Horizons Inc.

Relationship building and sexual awareness for kids with autism: S.T.A.R.S. 2 is a 188-page guide to teaching school aged kids (primary grades through high school) on the spectrum about relationships, sexuality, and personal safety. Written by a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, the book offers advice, activities, and assessment tools to find out what students understand already and where further understanding is warranted. Four areas of focus are offered: Understanding Relationships, Social Skills Training, Sexual Awareness, and Assertiveness with the goals of promoting positive sexuality and preventing sexual abuse. This book is an adapted version of the original S.T.A.R.S. guide that focused on older teens and adults.

- Mundy, P. (2016). *Autism and joint attention: Development, neuroscience, and clinical fundamentals*. New York: The Guilford Press.

Joint attention is the ability to adopt a common frame of reference with other people, a skill that is often lacking in individuals on the autism spectrum. This 350-page book is written by a developmental and clinical psychologist with over 30 years of experience in the field of autism and developmental disabilities. Although it is written as a supplemental text for graduate-level

students, it also offers parents, teachers, and other professionals information on the science of autism. An introduction to joint attention is found in the first three chapters and is written for all types of audiences. The role of joint attention in social development and learning can be found in the next three chapters, and the neuroscience and genetics complete the book.

- Bouck, E. C. (2017). *Assistive technology*. Los Angeles, CA: SAGE.

Written by an Associate Professor of Special Education, this 328-page book offers information and advice for teachers to learn how students from early childhood through the transition into adulthood might benefit from assistive technology. Full of case studies and activities, the book offers both pros and cons to everything from low to high end technology. Key terms, activities, and discussion questions at the end of each chapter offer opportunities for further study. Ostensibly written as a textbook for students and teachers, parents and caregivers would also find it helpful in deciding what might work for their child with a need for assistive technology.

These new materials may be borrowed from the [Center for Disability Information and Referral](#) (CeDIR) at the Institute. To check out materials, contact the library at 800-437-7924, send an e-mail to cedir@indiana.edu, or visit us at 1905 North Range Road in Bloomington.