

October 2015

Greetings, ECDtf members and friends,

This Message # 23 alerts you to recent activities and developments of interest, upcoming events, and new resources. Formal and informal gatherings and presentations by ECDtf folks were held in October at the Division for Early Childhood (DEC) International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families and at the 4th Croatian Symposium on Early Childhood Intervention. In December in Istanbul at the International Developmental Pediatrics Congress, ECDtf folks will gather for a working session. We hope you will join us if you attend the Istanbul conference. We welcome your comments and contributions as we move forward.

Topics (detailed below):

- 1. ECDtf and GPCwd updates**
!!! CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS for new ECDtf ADVOCACY TEAM !!!!
- 2. TASK FORCE TALK – Making Friends released**
- 3. Calls for Proposals**
- 4. Upcoming meetings**
- 5. Call for Applications: Inclusive Education Scholarships**
- 6. New resources**

1. ECDtf & GPCwd updates

!!! CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS for new ECDtf ADVOCACY TEAM !!!!

A generous grant to the RISE Institute from the Open Society Foundation now provides support for our development of several advocacy tools and activities. We anticipate workshop presentations, policy briefs, and webinars advancing the ECDtf and GPCwd missions. If you are interested in volunteering to join or lead the new ECDtf Advocacy Team, please submit a brief note, not more than one page, outlining your interests, experiences, and capacity as they align with our strategic plan (available at [http://www.gpcwd.org/uploads/2/6/0/9/26097656/ecdtf_strategic_plan_2015-2020_\(2final_4.15\).pdf](http://www.gpcwd.org/uploads/2/6/0/9/26097656/ecdtf_strategic_plan_2015-2020_(2final_4.15).pdf)). Forward to donald.wertlieb@tufts before November 20, 2015.

Several ECDtf members are planning to attend the Developmental Pediatrics Congress in Istanbul December 2-5, so we anticipate a formal or informal gathering to discuss ECDtf business and recruit new members from among the attendees. If you anticipate being in Istanbul then, please let Paul Lynch p.lynch@bham.ac.uk and donald.wertlieb@tufts.edu know so you can be included in the planning and proceedings.

Similarly, if you are planning to present or attend the ACEI World Summit on Children in Costa Rica March 31-April 3 <http://www.acei.org/programs-events/global-summit-on-childhood/page-3.html> and would be willing to organize an ECDtf session or working meeting, please contact donald.wertlieb@tufts.edu

2. TASK FORCE TALK

Our ECDtf strategic planning process indicated great interest in cultivating ECDtf as a forum for exchange of ideas and support basic to advancing our mission. We continue here a regular feature of our ECDtf proceedings and messages with this announcement of a new resource by ECDtf member Paddy Favazza. Please feel free to suggest topics or submit brief papers for consideration for publication in upcoming newsletters. We also welcome your comments on this piece. If you would like to lead or join a task team that will develop this TASK FORCE TALK tool, please volunteer!

A new resource just became available that will be of interest to all who strive for a more inclusive world and a *sense of belonging* for *all* children. The *MAKING FRIENDS Program* (Favazza, Ostrosky & Mouzourou, 2016) is a research-based program, designed to promote greater acceptance of children with differences during the early childhood years *at the very time* when early perceptions of differences are being formed into attitudes of acceptance or rejection. The strategies used in *MAKING FRIENDS* closely align to theories of attitude development, and focuses on the four most common types of diversity represented in early childhood settings: racial and ethnic diversity, disability, linguistic differences and contemporary family structures. The book is especially timely given the growing attention and efforts directed towards creating more inclusive communities and classrooms by leading international and national organizations such as UNICEF, National Association for Education of Young Children, Council for Exceptional Children. The book is intended for teachers, parents, program directors and others who want to ensure that *all* children are accepted as *full members* of their community and their classroom. Using self reflective exercises for teachers and children's books and cooperative play for children, the program provides a proactive tool for addressing issues of stigma and negative attitudes at time when both diversity and bullying behaviours are on the rise. See the website link for excerpts from the book and reviews with endorsements from leaders in the field.

<http://products.brookespublishing.com/The-Making-Friends-Program-P884.aspx>

Webinars are currently being developed for future training opportunities. If you want to

learn more about these, contact Paddy Favazza, Senior Research Fellow at The Center for Social Development and Education, University of Massachusetts Boston (Patricia.Favazza@umb.edu).

Some of the reviews are provided below.

“Plentiful resources and practical strategies that will help kindergarten and primary grade teachers support meaningful inclusion of each and every child in the classroom. [This] resource should be on every early childhood teacher's bookshelf!” Laurie Dinnebeil, University of Toledo; Editor, Journal of Early Intervention

“A masterpiece ready to transform diverse early childhood settings into more just and effective avenues for social inclusion and educational achievement, truly a toolbox with useful and useable instructions, guidance, and resources.” Donald Wertlieb, Partnership for Early Childhood Development & Disability Rights (PECDDR), Professor emeritus, Tufts University

“All children belong, and this book provides tested, research-based strategies that help teachers celebrate children's differences in ways that promote understanding and acceptance and friendships.” Karen Diamond, Professor Emerita, Purdue University

3. Calls for Proposals

DISES International Roundtable – due October 31

“Moving toward inclusion in schools and the community to improve the lives of vulnerable children” Specifically, the strategic plan focuses on three areas: **Topic 1: sharing research and scholarship in international special needs education ; Topic 2: offering examples of international collaborations in special needs education ; Topic 3: international policies and advocating for human rights for special needs populations.** DISES invites participants to submit a proposal for discussion in one of these three areas. There are a limited number of proposals which will be selected. However the voices of all participants are valued in the discussions and important to our collective understanding of the pertinent issues in special needs education. If you are interested in having your work presented for discussion, contact dises.cec@gmail.com

Havana Cuba, “Building Bridges Towards an Inclusive Society” -- due November 15

FYI-CSI, Ilc and the Cuban Chamber of Commerce are excited to be Co-hosting one of the first International Conferences to support the learning of all students. The conference will be held in Havana, Cuba, July 24-28, 2016. Contact FYI-CSI@COMCAST.NET

DEC Recommended Practices Monograph Series -- Due December 1, 2015

Environment Recommended Practices: Creating Inclusive and Responsive Environments for Young Children With Disabilities and Their Families. The Division for Early Childhood of the

Council for Exceptional Children (DEC) will publish its second monograph in the DEC Recommended Practices Monograph Series in 2016 concentrating on the Environment topic area. We are interested in manuscripts that highlight the Environment recommended practices from multiple paradigms to support young children from birth to age 5 with or at risk of developmental delays and disabilities and their families. We hope to publish manuscripts that represent the breadth and depth of each of the six Environment recommended practices that can be [downloaded here](#). The monograph will be dedicated to discussing and providing evidence-based strategies that demonstrate effective implementation of the Environment recommended practices in a variety of inclusive settings for children with disabilities, birth to age 5, and their families. We are especially interested in (1) innovative strategies for promoting children's access and participation across a range of settings and (2) system supports that are necessary for successful implementation of the Environment recommended practices. We also seek focused essays that include discussions regarding implications for practice, a vision for future areas of research, or how the Environment recommended practices might be used to influence neighborhoods, communities, and schools. **Please contact the co-editors Tricia Catalino, tricia.catalino@tun.touro.edu, and Lori Meyer, lori.meyer@uvm.edu, with any questions.**

4. Upcoming meetings

November 1-2 Ruderman Inclusion Institute, Boston, MA USA

<https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1731121>

Nov 6-7 HICN Workshop Understanding the Role of Institutions During and After Violent Conflict. Toronto, CA

December 2-5 International Developmental Pediatrics Congress Istanbul, Turkey The 1st IDP Congress will be in Istanbul, Turkey, organized by the Developmental Pediatrics Association (Gelişimsel Pediatri Derneği) in Turkey and Ankara University. The theme for the 1st IDP Congress is "ADD-ECD: Addressing Disability and Difficulties in Early Childhood Development." <http://www.idpcongress.org>

Plans pending for meeting for ECDtf side-event.

February 11-13 Conference on Research Innovations in Early Intervention; San Diego, CA USA

<http://criei.fpg.unc.edu>

March 31-April 3 ACEI Global Summit on Childhood, San Jose, Costa Rica

<http://www.acei.org/programs-events/summit.html>

June 1-4, 2016 International Conference on Cerebral Palsy and other Childhood-onset Disabilities ; Stockholm

- June 26-July 1 DISES Roundtable: Moving toward inclusion in schools and the community to improve the lives of vulnerable children Nicaragua
http://dises-cec.org/site/events/dises-events/nicaragua_round_table
- July 24-28 Building Bridges Towards an Inclusive Society, Havana, Cuba FYI-CESI@COMCAST.NET
- June 8-10/16 ISEI, Children’s Rights & Early Intervention, Stockholm, Sweden
<http://depts.washington.edu/isei/2016conf.html>
- August , 2016 International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI) and the World Blind Union (WBU) will be jointly holding their General Assemblies at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Florida, USA, from 18th to 25th August 2016. The overall theme for the General Assemblies is “**Human rights and the CRPD: What lies ahead**” <http://icevi.org>

5. Call for Applications: Inclusive Education Scholarships

For 2016–2017, in addition to awards in law, the Disability Rights Scholarship Program will offer two awards for master’s degrees in education, focusing on inclusive education. Participants will build a foundation in the principles, values, and practices of inclusive education, and upon completion of the program will be equipped to lead reform of education policy and practice in their home countries.

We welcome applicants from various professional backgrounds. Eligible applicants are citizens of Argentina, China, Colombia, Malawi, Mexico, Mozambique, Peru, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, and Zambia.

[For further details, please see the detailed call for applications](#) and use the sharing widgets to share the call with your contacts on Facebook, Twitter, Google+, and LinkedIn. The application deadline is November 2, 2015. **About the Disability Rights Scholarship Program**

The Disability Rights Scholarship Program provides awards for master’s degree study to disability rights advocates, lawyers, and educators to develop new legislation, jurisprudence, policy, research, and scholarship to harness the innovations and opportunities offered by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Related: [Meet the New Disability Rights Defenders](#): In this short video, disability rights scholars and faculty talk about their experience in the Open Society Disability Rights Scholarship Program—a yearlong master of laws program that’s changing the landscape of disability rights

6. New resources

(these have come to our attention since our last communiqué; please feel free to contribute and share other resources with a “reply-all” to this ECDtf Message, pending our establishment of our ECDtf Collaboration and Resource Sharing Platform. Please consider elaborating upon or critiquing one of these resources as a contribution to our new feature, TASK FORCE TALK)

- a) <https://en.unesco.org/gem-report/sites/gem-report/files/GMR%20UIS%20Equity%20Workshop%20-%20Final%20Statement%20%283%29.pdf>
- b) http://atd-fourthworld.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2015/07/Challenge_2015_-_ATD_Fourth_World.pdf
- c) <http://nber.org/reporter/2015number2/whitmore.html>
- d) <http://www.bridgespan.org/Publications-and-Tools/Youth-Development/early-childhood-funder-guide-2015.aspx#.Via4yyyszZxM> and nary a word on children with disabilities?!
- e) <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/vacs-thrives.pdf>