

# WY Early Intervention

Wyo Dept of Health,  
Developmental  
Disabilities Division,  
Early Intervention and  
Education Program



## Special points of interest:

- > OSEP Visit
- > Preschool Success
- > Early Intervention Council
- > Parent Resources
- > Contact Info

## OSEP Verification Visit

The week of September 27–30 was filled with a federal Office of Special Education Programs Verification Visit here in Cheyenne. This involved many meetings with staff, stakeholders and other agency staff to verify policies, procedures and data in three areas: General Supervision, Data, and Fiscal practices. These visits occur approximately every 6 years and Wyoming was the first state for this cycle.

OSEP brought a total of 5 people to Wyoming to visit not only the DDD's EIEP program for Part C but also the Wyoming Department of Education for Part B. The EIEP has one staff member that works with Part

B/619 which is the age 3 through 5 group. This meant, however, that EIEP was busy mostly with Part C meetings in our office.

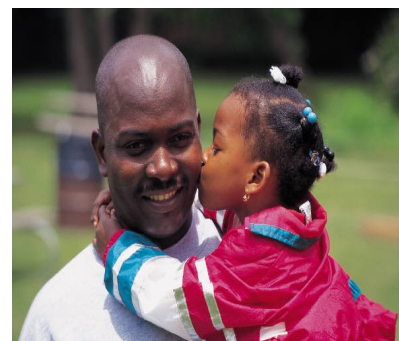
Before traveling to Wyoming, the OSEP team had several



phone calls with us to learn as much as possible so the actual on site visit was fairly painless and everyone knew the expectations. After two days on-site learning more about the program, the OSEP team and our

staff worked out a technical assistance plan to correct some minor issues brought up during the verification.

This TA plan was shared with stakeholders on the last day of the visit. Both EIEP staff and OSEP staff agreed it was a friendly, helpful, and fairly painless visit here at the DDD. Administrator Chris Newman, Program Manager Sara Mofield, Part C Coordinator Christine DeMers, Part B Coordinator Carol Maliszewski, Fiscal Manager Kevin Malm, and EI Specialist Rodney Wilhelm all participated in the verification visit.



## Preschool Success—Least Restrictive Environment

In this month's Preschool Success area we're discussing what LRE is and why it is important. IDEA amendment 99-457 passed in 1986 and called for LRE for preschool students with disabilities.

The reasons are many. Research concluded that segregated environments were not superior and friendships with

non-disabled peers were highly desired. Also, research shows that a continuum of service with retention is more likely to occur when disabled students are integrated with non-disabled peers several times per week.

Other benefits include: avoidance of negative attitudes/affects of labeling in a segregated environment; competent modeling, real-

istic life experiences; friendship opportunities with same-age peers; families feel less isolated in their community; relationships with other parents with non-disabled children; and the opportunity to learn about typical development.

With a multitude of benefits, LRE should be a top priority of any EI program. Source: NECTAC

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# NAEYC: Who, What, When and Why

The National Association for the Education of Young Children was founded in 1926 and provides resources in many different ways. Their accreditation gives credence to programs across the country, conferences and publications provide TA in many areas, public policy advocacy gives a national voice to early childhood education professionals, and many other areas.

Organizations across the country and join NAEYC and take advantage of their

Publications, networking, lobbying, discounts, etc. After going through their accreditation, child education entities can advertise this achievement to promote their program as high quality in professional standards.

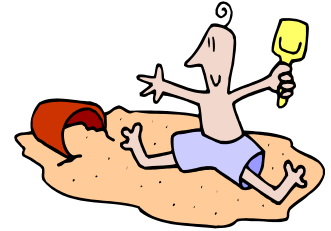
NAEYC holds the largest early childhood education conference and institutes in the world several times a year.

Please visit their website for more information.

**NAEYC's mission is to serve and act on behalf of the needs, rights and well-being of all young children with primary focus on the provision of educational and developmental services and resources.**

[www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org)

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## HELPFUL LINKS

Zero to Three: <http://www.zerotothree.org/>

Council for Children and Families <http://www.ccf.wa.gov/>

Child Development Institute: <http://www.childdevelopmentinfo.com/>

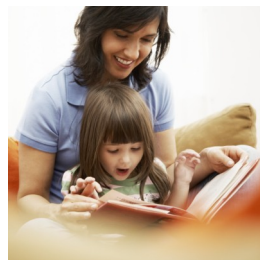
Positive Parenting: <http://www.positiveparenting.com>

## Resources for Parents on the Web—Regional CDCs

In this issue of the newsletter the resources for parents on the internet will be the various regions across the state with websites. Regions 1, 3, 5, 9, 10, 12, and 13 so far have their own websites with various information.

Region 1 located in the northwest part of the state covers Lovell, Cody, Powell, Thermopolis, Warland and surrounding communities. Visitors to this website and can learn about their programs, locations, and what services are offered.

Sheridan and Buffalo are the main communities in Region 2 and visitors can see what their daycare rates are, what their goals are, and a calendar of



events. The southwest corner of the state has LUCDA or Region 5 where website visitors can learn about their preschools, screen-

ings, Head Start, and services. This is similar to Region 9 in Casper as well as Region 13 in Gillette.

Region 10 is on the eastern side of the state and promotes their various sites, employment opportunities, board, and policy council. Perhaps one of the bigger regions is in Cheyenne and its website describes the different programs, services, and their mission. Please visit: <http://health.wyo.gov/ddd/earlychildhood/preskool.html> for a list of the regional websites.

Please send any suggestions for content you would like to see such as: websites, TA help, Q&A topics, etc.

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The Early Intervention and Education Program at the Developmental Disabilities Division provides assistance and oversight to the regional child development centers that serve young children, from birth through 5 years of age, with disabilities and their families across Wyoming.

**We're on the web!**

<http://health.wyo.gov/ddd/earlychildhood/index.html>



**Wyoming  
Department  
of Health**

**Commit to your health.**

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