



December 2007

The 6th Annual Creating Connections Conference

Have you received your “Save the Date” flyer for the Sixth Annual *Creating Connections: Viewing the Future through the Windows of Opportunity* conference? The ITC Conference Planning Committee is pleased to announce that Dr. Pam Schiller will be our opening keynote speaker. Dr. Schiller is an early childhood consultant and author of children’s books, DVDs, and CDs. She will present current research on brain development and windows of opportunity. The call for papers is also available on the Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia website. We know that there is much talent in Virginia. Won’t you consider sharing your knowledge with others in the field? The deadline is **1/9/08!** We look forward to seeing everyone at the conference.

Communities of Practice in Autism (CoPA)

The Communities of Practice (CoPAs) are going strong. Each region has held at least one meeting and established their meeting plans. The CoPA leaders developed the following mission statement and outcomes for this year:

Mission:

The Communities of Practice in Autism (CoPAs) will share knowledge and information about evidence-based strategies in natural environments, focusing on infants, toddlers, and young children with autism spectrum disorders and their families, to assist providers to improve services in the Commonwealth.

Key Outcomes:

1. Share knowledge
2. Improve supports and services for all children with ASD and their families
3. Develop a consistent mechanism to communicate individualized service delivery
4. Enhance families’ confidence and competence
5. Address providers’ and families’ skills related to ASD

If you would like to join your region’s CoPA, check out the website to locate your CoPA leader and make plans to join the next meeting!

Integrated Training Collaborative Meeting

The next Integrated Training Collaborative meeting will be held January 28, 2008 from 10:00-12:00 at Kluge Children's Rehabilitation Center. If you are interested in attending the meeting or would like further information regarding the ITC, please contact Cori Hill at (540) 943-6776 or corihill@ntelos.net