



*The Newsletter for
Indiana Early Intervention*



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Leave it better than you found it

EIHub celebrations around the state

Dear Stakeholders,

Change. A word we have become all too familiar with. We are seeing it, feeling it, maybe yelling its name, but certainly persisting through it and finding ourselves stronger for it. Maybe you're familiar with the saying, "Leave it better than you found it."

The thing about change is that it's necessary in order to leave something better than you found it, and that process, when occurring within a large system, takes time. It takes energy. It takes a desire to see failure as opportunity for change, and it takes a strong belief we will succeed.

We are also very familiar with the challenges and opportunities change has presented First Steps over the past 12–18 months, but let's press pause on all of the change for a moment and direct our focus to the many ways in which the entire First Steps system has been working diligently throughout the EIHub deployment to "leave it better than we found it," and hear from you about EIHub celebrations from around the state.

"I am excited to get into the current world of technology with First Steps"

"Quick to enter visits and get signatures"

"Easy and user friendly"

"Improves my productivity"

"This is going to be awesome once reports and IFSPs are pulled into the program"

"Able to serve more families due to less paperwork"

Thank you for continuing to take part in changing First Steps for the better and working together to leave this system better than we found it.

Best,

Christina

DDRS—First Steps Indiana statewide profile report

Reporting Period: Jan. 1, 2020–Dec. 31, 2020

Population Information

Population (U.S. Census Bureau)	6,376,792
Population Growth Percentage (U.S. Census Bureau)	4.00%

Child Enrollment & Referral

	Number of Children Served
One-day Count w/ IFSP—0 to 1 year old	1,487
One-day Count w/ IFSP—All Children	11,140
Annual Count of Children w/ IFSP	22,908
Annual Count of Children Served (regardless of IFSP)	25,854
Average Age at Referral (months)	14
New IFSP 07/01/2020-09/30/2020	2,877
Children with Referral to IFSP 45+ Days 07/01/2020-09/30/2020	115

Exits

	Number of Children	Percentage of Children
Children Moving to Preschool Special Education	5,455	47%
Children Under 3, Services No Longer Needed	236	2%
Eligible Children Who Declined Services	1,588	14%

Paid Services

	Number of Children	Percentage of Children
Children w/IFSP Served Primarily in the Natural Environment	22,815	100%
Total Amount Paid on Behalf of Children Served	\$45,987,392.34	
Average Paid on Behalf of Each Child Served	\$1,778.73	



Children Receiving Each Service Type

Service Type	Number of Children Served	Percent Receiving Service
Assistive Technology	186	1%
Audiology	838	3%
Developmental Therapy	13,809	53%
Health Services	0	0%
Interpreter Services	508	2%
Medical	0	0%
Nursing	0	0%
Nutrition	344	1%
Occupational Therapy	14,587	56%
Other Services	47	0%
Physical Therapy	13,057	51%
Psychology	197	1%
Social Work	30	0%
Speech Therapy	16,887	65%
Vision	21	0%

Source: First SideHatch Database

The First Steps Interagency Coordinating Council annual performance report has been posted to our website. To learn more about the ICC and to find the full report in both English and Spanish, [click here](#). The ICC will host its next quarterly meeting on May 12, 2021, from 10 a.m. to noon, EDT. The meeting will be hosted virtually on Zoom and is open to the public. To join the meeting, [please click here](#). The Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services is a division of the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration. If you have questions about Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services programs and services, visit us online at www.DDRS.in.gov and [visit our webpage](#) To learn more about DDRS commissions and councils.



Occupational therapy doctoral student capstone study

By Kaela Cousins, OTS

As an IU OT doctoral candidate interning with the state First Steps office, I would first like to express my immense gratitude to everyone who has participated in the virtual focus groups and shared information for my capstone project. My capstone project focus is to combine family feedback with evidence-based principles to improve family engagement, cultural competence and socioeconomic awareness within the First Steps program. As I near the end of my project, I would like to provide a brief project status update.

Over the past few weeks, I have engaged in rich discussions with many families who volunteered their time to participate in the virtual focus groups. Using qualitative content analysis, I was able to extract several valuable themes. During the interviews and discussions, families shared their experiences, suggestions and recommen-

dations to help us develop more engaging, culturally competent and socioeconomically aware early intervention practices. In addition to these virtual focus groups, I have gained insight into current evidence-based practices on equity, cultural responsiveness, and infant and early childhood mental health by attending various webinars to learn how to develop effective professional development resources on these domains.

In these last few weeks of my capstone experience with First Steps, I will enter the next stage of my implementation phase. In this implementation phase, I will be creating a one-hour, self-paced professional development course that integrates the family feedback with current evidence-based principles on improving family engagement, cultural competence and socioeconomic awareness. The training will also align with the Division of Early Childhood's recom-



mended family practices, including promotion of active family participation and encouragement of achievement of family goals. The training will utilize the family feedback and encourage the use of best practice in early intervention to promote positive child and family outcomes with those we serve in the First Steps program. Be on the lookout for this professional development opportunity this month on the new IN EI Hub Learning Management System!



First Steps [initial](#) and [annual](#) credentialing is now open. The forms for initial and annual credentials can be found on our First Steps website. You may submit your forms and documentation to the provider enrollment management team by emailing them to INEIHubenroll@pcgus.com.



Partnering with Indiana's child care resource and referral agencies

Child care resource and referral agencies support families, child care programs, businesses and communities across the state.

The mission of Indiana's CCR&R network is to strengthen Indiana's local early care and education infrastructure by connecting families to quality care, supporting providers and engaging community leaders as advocates for high-quality, affordable early care and education.

Indiana has five CCR&R agencies that serve specific counties in the state (see map). They include [Child Care Answers](#), [Early Learning Connections](#), the [Child Care Resource Network](#), [Chances and Services for Youth](#) and [4C of Southern Indiana](#). No matter which county you're in, you will find the same services for families, community organizations, businesses and child care providers.

What do we do?

As CCR&R agencies, we provide access to resources that nurture success for families of young children in Indiana. We offer direct support to families, helping them understand and find quality child care, as well as provide them with resources and tools on parenting. Emerging child care programs look to us for guidance on starting their businesses. Additionally, we share the importance of quality child care with business and community partners, such as First Steps, and provide support as needed to assist their clients and employees.

How do CCR&R agencies support families?

It can be difficult for families to find inclusive child care that will specifically care for their child's medical and developmental needs. As First Steps providers, you can refer a

family to one of our family engagement specialists on staff. We also make referrals to Spark Learning Lab. If a parent has concerns that their child's needs will not be met or are currently not being met at child care, we can refer the program to our partner, [Spark Learning Lab](#). Spark can then coordinate related supports and technical assistance for the child care program.

We provide individualized tools and resources families need to access

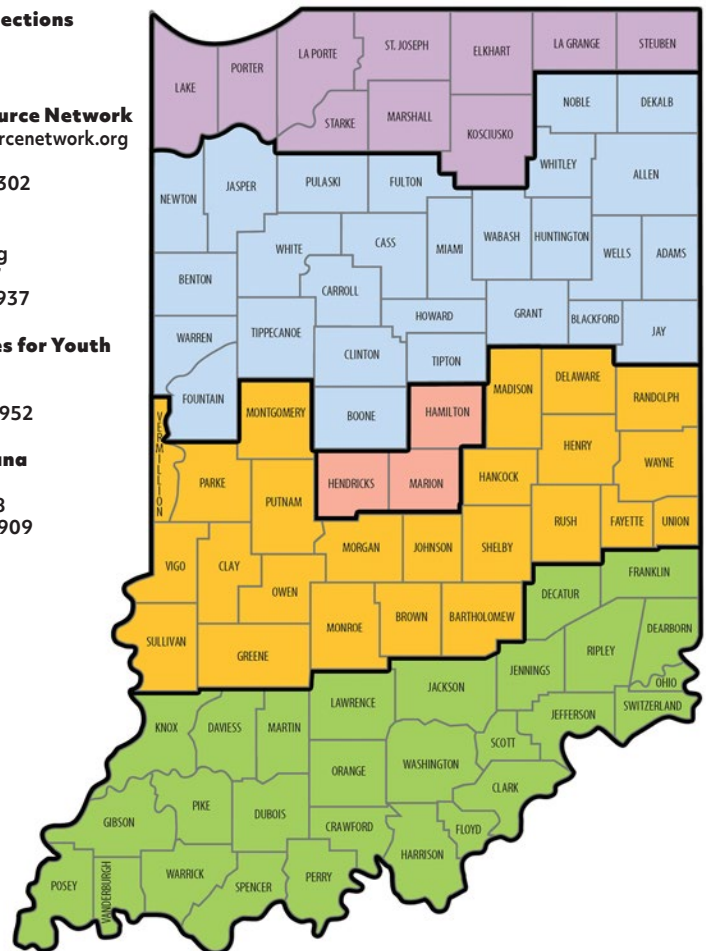
quality care and education like:

- Custom lists of child care programs that meet the family's individual needs
- One-on-one technical assistance for families
- Family-focused workshops and resources

First steps providers and families can contact the local Child Care Resource and Referral agency in their area for more information.

Local child care resource and referral services provider map

- **Early Learning Connections**
www.geminus.org
 Phone: 219-757-1800
- **The Child Care Resource Network**
www.thechildcareresourcenetwork.org
 Phone: 765-742-7105
 Toll-Free: 800-932-3302
- **Child Care Answers**
childcareanswers.org
 Phone: 317-636-5727
 Toll-Free: 800-272-2937
- **Chances and Services for Youth**
casyonline.org
 Phone: 812-232-3952
 Toll-Free: 800-886-3952
- **4C of Southern Indiana**
www.child-care.org
 Phone: 812-423-4008
 Toll-Free: 866-200-5909





SAVE THE DATE!
JUNE 10 & 11, 2021

VIRTUAL FIRST STEPS CONFERENCE

[EventMobi link](#) | [Registration link](#)

Family-Guided Routines-Based Intervention update

Explore the amazing FGRBI website on your own

As we hope you've heard by now, First Steps is adopting the Family-Guided Routines-Based Intervention home visiting model. We are excited to move, as a system, toward a family-centered and coaching-oriented framework for supporting families. There have been multiple webinars on this topic (recordings can be [found here](#)) and more to come, including workshop and breakout sessions at the upcoming June [First Steps Conference](#).

Perhaps you would like to explore FGRBI on your own? Check out the amazing [FGRBI website](#), developed by Dr. Juliann Woods and her team.

- Click on "[What is FGRBI?](#)" for a quick overview and a six-minute video.
- Want to read about what FGRBI might look like in a typical session with a family? Check out this four-page [illustrated handout](#).
- Click on "FGRBI for Providers" and find "[Resources for Providers](#)" as well as "[Video Illustrations of FGRBI](#)."
- Still doing some tele-intervention? Click on the "[Mobile Coaching](#)" tab and see a series of handouts as well as video illustrations.

Note: Video illustrations include brief clips as well as full home visits.

See something that interested you? Share it with a team member or supervisor. Consider offering it as a staff meeting discussion topic. Someone from IU would be happy to join a staff meeting virtually to talk with your team about FGRBI (email Katie Herron at kgheeron@indiana.edu).

Want more? If these existing resources pique your interest, don't forget to look for FGRBI topics at the June conference.

The screenshot shows the FGRBI website interface. At the top is a navigation menu with links: Home, What is FGRBI?, FGRBI for Families, FGRBI for Providers, Mobile Coaching, About Us, and CECRAP. Below the menu is a featured handout video titled "Featured Handout: Family Guided Routines Based Intervention - DeAndre and Willie's Story". The video shows a man in a blue shirt kissing a young child on the cheek. Below the video is a caption: "Family Guided Routines Based Intervention (FGRBI) and Caregiver Coaching promotes the ability of early intervention providers to coach caregivers to engage their young children in learning as they participate in everyday routines and activities that are meaningful to them." At the bottom of the screenshot are three circular icons: a heart for "FGRBI for Families", a hand holding a heart for "FGRBI for Providers", and a person with a speech bubble for "Mobile Coaching".



First Steps Early Intervention Case Management System

First Steps webinars and trainings, including those required for initial credentialing, are now located on the [IN EI Hub Learning Management System](#). All registered IN EI Hub users are encouraged to visit the [Learning Management System](#) often, as we will be posting new trainings and professional development opportunities. [Watch this video](#) to learn more about the LMS!

As we continue to refine the processes and procedures in our First Steps program, we are not currently offering Service Coordination 102/103 and Direct Service Provider 102/103 trainings at this time. We will notify personnel when those become available. Stay tuned!

You may still access trainings posted on the [I-LEAD platform](#) hosted by the Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning and other applicable early intervention professional development trainings outside of the LMS. However, as documented in the First Steps Policy Manual, please remember to retain your certificate of attendance documentation for a period of seven years.

If you are looking for online trainings for professional development hours, you may [visit I-LEAD](#) and register for an account. When registering, identify as an “early intervention provider.” If you have questions regarding I-LEAD, contact their customer services representatives directly at 800-299-1627 and choose option 5, Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m.–7 p.m., or Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m., Eastern Time.



The Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children 2021 Virtual Early Childhood Professional Development Series, April 20. From 6:30 to 9 p.m. EST each day. Earn up to 7.5 training hours. To register, visit the [INAEYC website](#).



Vincennes University American Sign Language Program Virtual Open House, April 16. This is a perfect opportunity to learn more about the Vincennes University [ASL & Deaf Studies program](#), located on the campus of the Indiana School for the Deaf. [Registration is open](#).



Indiana DEC Twitter Chat, Tuesday, April 20, 2021. From 8:30 to 9 p.m., EDT. In collaboration with PATINS Project: “The Month of the Young Child.” Follow #patinsicam. Visit [PATINSproject.org](#) to learn more.



The 56th Annual Riley Children's Health Conference, May 12 and 13. Held virtually from 8 a.m. to noon, EDT, both days. The theme will be “Learning from 2020 to Shape the Future of Children's Health.” Visit the [registration page](#) to sign up.



The Virtual Inspiring Abilities Expo, May 14 and 15. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Attendees will have the ability to explore four sessions with 12 unique topics over two days. Register now to access the virtual conference app or website today. For more details, visit [fuseinc.org](#) or call 317-462-9064



The 2021 Indiana School Health Network Virtual Conference, June 22 and 23. From 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. This year's theme is “Building Resilience.” [Registration](#) is free.



Infancy Onward virtual conference save the date, Aug. 12 and 13. Visit [www.infancyonward.org](#) for more information or email sbailey@mhai.net for questions.



The 12th Annual Help Me Grow National Forum, Sept. 20 to 23. This [virtual forum](#) will consist of four half-days of presentations, featuring approximately 20 hours of content.



About Special Kids upcoming training events. [About Special Kids'](#) goal is to inform and educate parents and professionals and to serve as a system of support and reference.



Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services

Get First Steps information directly via email

Sign up for DDRS updates, First Steps newsletter and INVision parent newsletter. To register, [click FSSA Subscriber](#).

INvision newsletter

The Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services INvision newsletter shares news, information, tips, and events from each of our bureaus to help families and individuals with disabilities stay connected and learn more about our services. Families can [view past editions](#) and [sign up here](#). Please feel free to sign up and share with the families you support.

Our mission, vision and values

Mission: To partner with Hoosier families whose young children are experiencing developmental delays and connect them with services that help them promote their child's development.

Vision: All Indiana families have a strong foundation to advocate for their infants and toddlers to grow and flourish to their highest potential.

Values:

- **Family-centered:** To support and enhance each family's capacity to promote their child's development.
- **Strengths-based:** To acknowledge families and children as fundamentally resourceful and resilient.
- **Relationship-based:** To embrace and promote the fact that children grow and learn in the context of positive relationships with caring adults.
- **Holistic:** To promote "whole child" development by recognizing the interconnectedness of physical, cognitive, social emotional and adaptive development.
- **Culturally competent:** To respect and be responsive to the cultures, beliefs, practices, strengths and needs of all families, children and individuals.
- **Routines-based:** To embed services and supports into a child and family's daily activities in their home or other community-based environments.
- **Individualized:** To adapt services and supports in response to the unique strengths and needs of each child and family.

Use your computer to read webpages out loud

BrowseAloud is a suite of products that provides online reading support. BrowseAloud reads website content out loud, highlighting each word as it is spoken in a high-quality, human-sounding voice. Click on the BrowseAloud link that appears beside "Accessibility Tools" on the footer of the IN.gov website. This will launch the BrowseAloud Plus toolbar. This toolbar provides speech at the touch of a button. For more information, visit [BrowseAloud](#).



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