

National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities Dissemination Plan July, 2011

This Dissemination Plan has been developed to guide the work of the National Dissemination Center in providing: (a) current, evidence-based information, resources, and products on special education and disabilities to a national audience of families and parents, early intervention providers, educators (both special education and general education), administrators, related services staff, and others; and (b) leadership and guidance on effective dissemination practices to the TA&D network funded by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), U.S. Department of Education.

The structure of this plan was developed by NDC staff and was informed by the dissemination planning work of other projects, including the National Center for Dissemination of Disability Research (*Elements of an Effective Dissemination Plan,* 2001), the literature on dissemination, and NICHCY's own long-term experiences in providing for the information and resource needs of its target audiences. Relevant tools and resources are available at our Dissemination Initiative web page at http://nichcy.org/dissemination.

Table of Contents

1. NICHCY's Dissemination Goals and Objectives	2	
Goal #1		2
Goal #2		4
Goal #3		5
2. Target audiences, their information and resource needs, and corresponding dissemination strategies	7	
Families, Parents, and Children with Disabilities		7
PTIs and CPRCs [Parent Training and Information Centers; Community Parent Resource Centers]		9
Early Intervention Providers		
Educators		
Administrators		
Service Providers in Communities and Schools		
TA&D network of projects		15
3. Partners and intermediaries to reach specific communities of users	16	
4. Mediums for implementing NICHCY's dissemination plan	17	
5. Enhancing access, availability, and addressing barriers	17	



1. NICHCY's Dissemination Goals and Objectives

Goal #1 Disseminate information about:

- disabilities in children (birth to 22)
- IDEA and other relevant disability and education laws
- early intervention and special education
- research-based disability-related educational practices, and state-level resources to the nation of users whose lives are affected by a child's disability

Objective	Users	Medium	Evaluation	Timeline
Objective 1A: Develop and disseminate information on key topics in user- friendly, family-friendly language.	 Families Early interventionists Educators Administrators Service providers 	Website	Rate This Page feature on all pages of the website, permitting comments by users	Suspended in April, 2011 when changed to new web platform. Searching for accessible ratings app, will re- introduce in Aug. 2011
Objective 1B: Develop and disseminate information on key topics in multiple formats and media.	 Families Early interventionists Educators Administrators Service providers 	 Website eNewsletter Constant Contact Email Telephone 	 Website visitor survey Survey of 1.800 Information Request Callers Constant Contact analytics 	 Spring 2009, will do again in 2012 Spring 2009, will do again in 2012 Monthly
Objective 1C: Provide users with tools for easily sharing NICHCY information with others (e.g., social media tools, copyright-free material, camera-ready PDFs).	 Families Early interventionists Educators Administrators Service providers 	 Share This button PDF button for web pages Email button for web pages 	Analytics of website and newsletter user click patterns, including referrals to materials produced by the TA&D network	Annual robust data analysis each spring, supported by monthly Google Analytics of website.



Objective	Users	Medium	Evaluation	Timeline
Objective 1D: Develop and disseminate training materials on IDEA 2004.	 Families Early interventionists Educators Administrators Service providers 	Website	Analytics of website and newsletter user click patterns	Monthly Google Analytics of website and Constant Contact analytics of newsletter clicks.
Objective 1E: Develop and disseminate a monthly eNewsletter highlighting recent resources for primary audiences, including the materials of the TA&D network.	 Families Early interventionists Educators Administrators Service providers 	eNewsletter Constant Contact email functionality	Newsletter subscriber survey	Spring 2009, will do again in 2012
Objective 1F: Promote the availability and expertise of the TA&D network and provide users with easy access to its wide range of resources.	 Families Early interventionists Educators Administrators Service providers 	 eNewsletters Facebook page Twitter Website (What's New? Related Info sidebar) 	Analytics of Facebook page, website, and newsletter user click patterns, including referrals to materials produced by the TA&D network	Monthly Constant Contact analytics of newsletter, weekly Facebook and Twitter analytics, monthly Google Analytics of website



Goal #2 |

Disseminate key information (see Goal 1) in Spanish to Spanish-speaking audiences and to those who serve this community of users.

Objective	Users	Medium	Evaluation	Timeline
Objective 2A: Develop and promote a Spanish- language website (NICHCYen español).	 Families Early interventionists Educators Administrators Service providers 	Website	Rate This Page feature on all pages of the Spanish website, inviting comments by users	Rate This Page was suspended in April, 2011 when changed to new web platform. Searching for accessible ratings app, will re- introduce in Aug. 2011
Objective 2B: Develop and disseminate Spanish-	FamiliesEarly interventionistsEducators	 Website Bilingual 1.800 line 	 Website visitor survey in Spanish 	 Spring 2009, will do again in 2012
language publications on key disability topics.	AdministratorsService providers	 Camera-ready PDFs 	 Survey of 1.800 Information Request Callers in Spanish 	 Spring 2009, will do again in 2012
			 Analytics of website user click patterns on the Spanish website 	 Monthly
Objective 2C: Develop and disseminate Spanish- language training materials on IDEA 2004.	 Families Early interventionists Educators Administrators Service providers 	Website Camera-ready PDFs Spanish slideshows	Analytics of website and newsletter user click patterns	Monthly via Google Analytics and Constant Contact
Objective 2D: Provide users with tools for easily sharing NICHCY information with others	 Families Early interventionists Educators Administrators 	 Share This button PDF button for web pages Email button for 	Analytics of website and newsletter user click patterns, including referrals to materials	Monthly via Google Analytics



Objective	Users	Medium	Evaluation	Timeline
(e.g., social media tools, copyright- free material, camera-ready PDFs).	 Service providers 	web pages	produced by the TA&D network	
Objective 2E: Develop and disseminate information in English for service providers who don't speak Spanish to enable them to locate resources in Spanish and share these with Spanish-speaking clients.	 Families Early interventionists Educators Administrators Service providers 	Website Video	Analytics of website user click patterns	Monthly via Google Analytics

Goal #3

Disseminate guidance and tools about effective dissemination practices to the TA&D network of projects.

Objective	Users	Medium	Evaluation	Timeline
Objective 3A: Develop and disseminate a review of the research base on effective dissemination practices.	TA&D Projects	NICHCY website NING site Summary of literature	Collaborate with CIPP to develop and conduct evaluation of TA&D network's use of and satisfaction with NICHCY's materials and leadership on effective dissemination	Spring 2009, will do again in 2012
Objective 3B: Develop and disseminate a website, articles, blogs,	TA&D Projects	 NICHCY website Blogs NING site TAcommunities.org 	Pilot test toolkit components with selected key informants	Summer 2011

Page **5** of **18**



Objective	Users	Medium	Evaluation	Timeline
and tooltips distilling how-to's in effective dissemination.		 Disseminating for Impact series 	within the TA&D network	
Objective 3C: Conduct a series of webinars on a range of key topics in effective dissemination	TA&D Projects	Adobe ConnectiLinc	Conduct participant assessment surveys of attendees following webinars	After each webinar. Last webinar was Spring 2010
Objective 3D: Start and facilitate a Dissemination Community of Practice within the TA&D network.	TA&D Projects	NING siteTAcommunities.orgNichcy.org	Participation data, participant surveys	Survey in Spring 2011
Objective 3E: Develop a toolkit on dissemination that will guide projects in the TA&D network through the process of developing an effective dissemination plan.	TA&D Projects	 ScreenR (videos) PDFs Self-Assessments Technical assistance 	 Rate This page feature on all website pages and tools Participant surveys 	 Suspended in April, 2011, will re- introduce in Aug. 2011 Spring 2009, will do again in 2012



2. Target audiences, their information and resource needs, and corresponding dissemination strategies

Families, Parents, and Children with Disabilities

Description of Target Audience: Families and parents/guardians of children and youth (birth to 22) nationwide who represent the full range and diversity of disabilities (e.g., specific learning disabilities, speech and language impairments, health impairments, autism). Families and their children who represent the full range of socio-economic status; educational backgrounds; racial and ethnic backgrounds; urban, suburban, and rural settings; variations in access to education programs and related services; and variations in access to information resources (e.g., web-based, local community organizations).

Key Dissemination Strategies
Use family friendly language and appropriate reading levels in web-based and print products.
Provide information, resources, and products in English and Spanish.
Provide products that are concise yet also substantive, with links to sources of more detailed information.
Provide information and resources through multiple formats, including:
 a comprehensive website in English and Spanish, with PDF printability;
 monthly newsletters highlighting current resources for families and a section devoted to "Families and Communities";
 personalized technical assistance and expertise in English and Spanish from Information Specialists;



Information and Resource Needs	Key Dissemination Strategies
services; mental health services) can provide.	 social media venues such as Facebook and Twitter.
Information about state-specific as well as local school district and community resources.	 Utilize TA&D parent centers as intermediaries in dissemination. Refer families to their state's PTI or CPRC via phone or email (Information Specialists) or website and publications. Provide State Resource Sheets to connect families with agencies and organizations in their area. Design website to accommodate families who have low-speed or limited
	access to the web (e.g., minimize the need for "click throughs" and the size of PDFs, Word documents, graphics; maximize availability of resources in HTML format).



PTIs and CPRCs [Parent Training and Information Centers; Community Parent Resource Centers]

Description of Target Audience: OSEP-funded PTIs and CPRCs charged with providing families of children with disabilities (ages birth to 22) with disability-related information; orientation to early intervention and special education services; training; and connection to local, state, and national resources.

Information and Resource Needs	Key Dissemination Strategies
Materials and resources that can be shared with families, on the following:	Dissemination strategies described under "Families, Parents, and Children with Disabilities." (see above)
 The full range of different disabilities – causes and characteristics, educational implications, sources of additional information, etc. Legislation concerned with disabilities and special education (e.g., IDEA, ADA and ESEA relative to children with disabilities). The early intervention and special education identification and assessment process under IDEA. Educational approaches - including evidence-based practices and interventions – that schools and early intervention providers can use. Parent and student rights under IDEA (as well as other relevant legislation), including options for dispute resolution. 	 Provide key information through multiple formats, including: Product design that minimizes users' use of resources (e.g., brief publications easy to print on basic equipment with minimal use of printer ink). Copyright-free products designed as camera-ready PDFs for easy copying and sharing. Personalized technical assistance via the 1.800 info line and email. eNewsletters identifying well established as well as newly available resources for families. Comprehensive website in English and Spanish in HTML, with PDF printability and Share This. Spanish-language materials. Slideshows, trainer guides, and handouts for participants, downloadable from the website or from CD, in PDF and accessible Word format, in English and in Spanish.



Information and Resource Needs	Key Dissemination Strategies
 Information about state-specific and national resources. Training materials in English and Spanish on key processes and definitions under IDEA. 	Social media tools (RSS feeds, Share This, Facebook, and Twitter).

Early Intervention Providers

Description of Target Audience: Early intervention providers nationwide who provide services to families and their infants and children, birth to the 3rd birthday, with the full range of developmental delays and disabilities.

Information and Resource Needs	Key Dissemination Strategies
 The full range of developmental delays and different disabilities – causes and characteristics, sources of additional information. Legislation concerned with disabilities, and early intervention and special education (e.g., IDEA, including Parts C and B). Early intervention identification and assessment process and procedures. Effective early intervention approaches, including evidence-based practices, interventions, and tools. 	 Provide key information through multiple formats, including: concise summaries available on the website and in camera-ready formats for easy sharing; website articles, blogs, and resource sheets, with PDF printability; website section tailored to the duties and info needs of early intervention providers ("Especially forEarly Interventionists") eNewsletters with a section highlighting resources for Schools K-12; State Resource Sheets



Information and Resource Needs	Key Dissemination Strategies
Current knowledge base on cultural competence and how to address the cultural and linguistic diversity of families To share with families: State and local early intervention service systems and resources, how to access services, how parents can participate in planning for services, and availability of parent support groups	 personalized technical assistance from NICHCY Information Specialists, provided by phone and email; social media tools, including RSS feeds, Share This, Facebook, and Twitter.

Educators

Description of Target Audience: Special education and general education teachers nationwide who provide services to children and youth (age 3-22) with the full range and diversity of developmental delays and disabilities.

Information and Resource Needs	Key Dissemination Strategies
Full range of developmental delays and different disabilities – causes and characteristics, educational implications, sources of additional information.	 Provide key information through multiple formats, including: concise summaries of current research and effective instructional practices;
IDEA's requirements for educating students with disabilities in public school	 website articles, blogs, and resource sheets, with PDF printability and Share This Tool;
Evidence-based educational practices for educating students with disabilities, including:	 website section tailored to the duties and info needs of educators ("Especially forSchools and Administrators")



Information and Resource Needs	Key Dissemination Strategies
 classroom accommodations and supports for individual students with disabilities 	 eNewsletters with a section highlighting resources for Schools K- 12;
 effective instructional practices 	 personalized technical assistance from Information Specialists, provided by phone and email;
 modifying tests and curricula 	
 addressing behavior issues 	 social media tools, including RSS feeds, Facebook, and Twitter.
Materials that can be shared with families	
Activities and resources that can be used in the classroom	
Responsibilities for participating in IEP meetings and implementing students' IEPs	



Administrators

Description of Target Audience: School administrators nationwide working at the local, district, or state education agency level who are responsible for developing, planning, and monitoring programs and services for children with disabilities.

Information and Resource Needs	Key Dissemination Strategies
The school's legal obligations to make a free	Provide key information through multiple formats, including:
appropriate public education available to students with disabilities	 concise summaries of current research and effective instructional practices;
IDEA's requirements in detail	 website section tailored to the duties and info needs of
Effective models of IDEA implementation used in	administrators ("Especially forSchools and Administrators");
other locations	 training materials that can be used in staff development;
Evidence-based practices and resources in:	 eNewsletters with a section highlighting resources for
 teacher recruitment and retention 	administrators;
 mentoring 	 personalized technical assistance from Information Specialists,
 large-scale assessments 	provided by phone and email;
• RTI	 social media tools, including RSS feeds and Twitter.
 managing student behavior 	
 inclusion and LRE 	
Effective staff development regarding disabilities and effective educational practices	



Service Providers in Communities and Schools

Description of Target Audience: Service providers nationwide who work with children with disabilities and their families, either in schools or as part of the local community or region. Examples: Related services personnel, community agencies, daycare centers, transportation providers, parent support groups, one-stop centers, etc.

Information and Resource Needs	Key Dissemination Strategies
Orientation to the disability community at the national and state levels	Provide key information through multiple formats and venues, including:
Fact sheets on specific disabilities and disability rights Disability awareness and etiquette Legal responsibilities to provide services to those with disabilities How to accommodate a client's disability-related needs	 comprehensive website in English and Spanish; user-friendly, jargon-free articles online and in PDF formats; website section tailored to the info needs of service providers in the community ("Especially forFamilies and Communities"); State Resource Sheets; eNewsletters with a section highlighting resources for Families and Communities; email and personalized technical assistance from Information Specialists; social media tools, including Facebook, Twitter, and Share This.



TA&D network of projects

Description of Target Audience: Projects and centers funded by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), U.S. Department of Education, as part of its Technical Assistance and Dissemination (TA&D) network. These are listed on the "placemat" developed by the TACC, as well as at <u>http://www.tadnet.org</u>

Information and Resource Needs	Key Dissemination Strategies
Review of the research base on effective dissemination practices	Provide key information through multiple formats and in multiple venues, including:
Tips and tools for understanding and involving intended users and target audiences	 Website on dissemination Dissemination CoP, with its own web presence (NING site,
Tips and tools for the other aspects of effective dissemination (content, source, media)	 Disseminating for Impact series
Tips and tools for evaluating the implementation and impact of dissemination activities	 Webinar series on key dissemination topics and practices
Guided process for developing a dissemination plan	 Multi-media disseminator's toolkit, including: videos, short research-based articles, how-to guides, and tipsheets
	 Promote network resources via Facebook, Twitter, NICHCY eNewsletter



3. Partners and intermediaries to reach specific communities of users

Partner groups who have credibility with specific target audiences (especially those who are hard to reach) and who can serve as trusted intermediaries between NICHCY and those audiences, in order to promote awareness of NICHCY and its products and services.

Target Audiences	Partner Groups and Organizations and Intermediaries to Leverage
Families	PTIs, CPRCs, professionals working with families
	For Spanish speaking families: Collaborate with Univision, have them list 1.800 and website address. Respond to other media (radio) requests from Spanish stations.
PTIs and CPRCs	National Parent TAC, Regional PTACs
Early interventionists	NECTAC, Council for Exceptional Children, CONNECT, TACSEI
Educators	Council for Exceptional Children; other disability organizations (NCLD, LD online); NEA, AFT, families of children with disabilities
Administrators	RRCs, National Association of Elementary School Principals, National Association of Secondary School Principals, the Comp Centers and Equity Assistance Centers
Service providers in communities and schools	Council for Exceptional Children, Related services professional organizations (at the national level)
TA&D network of projects	OSEP, TACC, IDEA Partnership, other TA & D projects and centers



4. Mediums for implementing NICHCY's dissemination plan

Primary mediums NICHCY uses to disseminate information, resources, and products to each target audience group.

User Group	Mediums
Families	1.800 telephone Information Specialists, website, email, regular mail, newsletters, publications, State Resource Sheets, Share This, social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter)
PTIs and CPRCs	1.800 telephone Information Specialists, website, email, regular mail, newsletters, camera-ready publications, State Resource Sheets, training materials, Share This, social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter)
Early interventionists	Website, newsletter, email, 1.800 telephone Information Specialists, social media
Educators	Website, newsletter, publications, research summaries, Share This, social media
Administrators	Website, newsletter, research summaries, RSS feed
Service providers in communities and schools	Website, newsletter, email, publications, camera-ready PDFs, state resource sheets
TA&D network of projects	Website, Dissemination CoP, multi-media disseminator's toolkit, webinars

5. Enhancing access, availability, and addressing barriers

NICHCY uses the following strategies to enhance **accessibility** of its information, resources, and products:

Copyright free | Access to NICHCY's information is promoted by making it all copyright free. This allows users to share it, adapt it, and put it on their own websites.

Flyers and catalog | We also have audience-specific flyers (families, general educators, special educators) that can be shared at conferences, meetings, and other gatherings that promote NICHCY's content. These are designed to pose frequently asked questions by the specific audience and to list the website address where they will find that question answered. The online catalog is designed along the same principles---by audience type (e.g., "info for families," "info for educators").



Share This tools | Content pages on NICHCY's site can be easily shared using social media tools.

Archives | We maintain an out-of-print section for our publications. Users have requested this, and so all old publications are available online.

NICHCY employs the following strategies to enhance awareness about the **availability** of its services and resources:

What's New | Widget on front page of nichcy.org website, this feature will offer links directly to new or updated resources.

News You Can Use | Our monthly eNewsletter includes links to resources developed by NICHCY and other OSEP-funded centers.

NICHCY on Facebook | Daily newsfeed posts linking to information and resources will allow our over 3.200 Facebook users to learn about and find relevant information on timely topics.

NICHCY on Twitter | We re-post our daily Facebook announcements on Twitter through an automated feed. In addition, we will periodically re-Tweet announcements and resources from relevant organizations and agencies such as used.gov, disability.gov, and edweek.

NICHCY uses the following strategies to address potential **<u>barriers</u>** target audience members might encounter in accessing its services and resources:

Limited internet access | Families and educators in remote areas can access our resources through our toll-free information line. Information specialists will also mail publications to users who cannot download them.

Visually Impaired users | Our website is designed to be 508 compliant so that users with screen readers can access all content.

Language and Literacy challenges | As we serve a wide variety of users, we design our resources to be easy-to-read and clear, following our own *Writing Plainly* guidelines. We also provide many of our resources in Spanish.