

# INCLUSION IN TEXAS NEWSLETTER



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## QUALTRICS

**February Qualtrics Data is due  
Friday, March 3rd.**

## SAVE THE DATES

2022-2023

ALL Network Member Meetings  
(Inclusion, ECSE & AT Members)

**4/4/23**

**7/17/23**

Zoom Link:

[bit.ly/InclusionQuarterly](https://bit.ly/InclusionQuarterly)

**Please hold the entire day.**

Detailed agendas will be sent  
before each meeting day.



# Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)

Looking for a great resource to support teachers in the use of AAC in ECSE programs? Take a look at the new resource from PrAACtical AAC, AAC Implementation Framework: Steps to Learning. This resource aligns well with the EZ AT and EZ AT 2 tool received in the Inclusion in Texas ECSE materials mail outs 2021-22.



**NCPMI**  
**Response Strategies When Families Share Hard Things**

Early interventionists often work with families and young children who are experiencing trauma or traumatic events. Sometimes when families of very young children share something upsetting or surprising, early interventionists are unsure how to respond. We might freeze or say something reactive rather than supportive. Having a few strategies ready for those moments that may catch you off guard can be really helpful. This tip sheet provides some in the moment response strategies to use when families share difficult or traumatic experiences. For more information on trauma-informed practices in early intervention, please refer to: [The Pyramid Model and Trauma-Informed Care: A Guide for Early Childhood Professionals to Support Young Children's Resilience](#).

**During the visit**

- ▶ Push your "Pause Button."
- ▶ Take a deep breath.
- ▶ Think about what was said.

**Then you can...**

- ▶ Acknowledge what was said—this validates the family and gives you time to process.  
"Thank you for telling me that."  
"I appreciate that you shared that with me."  
"What I hear you saying is..."  
Write a way to validate and acknowledge what you heard in your own words here: \_\_\_\_\_
- ▶ Ask questions to clarify the next steps the family would like to take. Below are some reasons families might be sharing information with you:  
Awareness—the family wants you to be aware of the situation.  
Validation—the family wants to feel heard and their experience affirmed.  
Informational support—the family is seeking information.  
Connection to community resources—the family would like additional services or resources.

National Center for Pyramid Model Innovations | [ChallengingBehavior.org](http://ChallengingBehavior.org)

Early interventionists often work with families and young children experiencing trauma. When families share something upsetting or surprising, early interventionists can be unsure about how to respond.

Response Strategies When Families Share Hard Things, developed by the National Center for Pyramid Model Innovations (NCPMI), provides in-the-moment response strategies to use when families share difficult or traumatic experiences.

**Thank you to Kristina Parr from ESC Region 4 for sharing their newly updated Prekindergarten Guidelines Graphic Overview.**

This resource is not intended to replace the Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines which can be found at:  
<https://tea.texas.gov/academics/early-childhood-education/texas-prekindergarten-guidelines>

2022 Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines  
PK3 and PK4 Graphic Overview

region 4

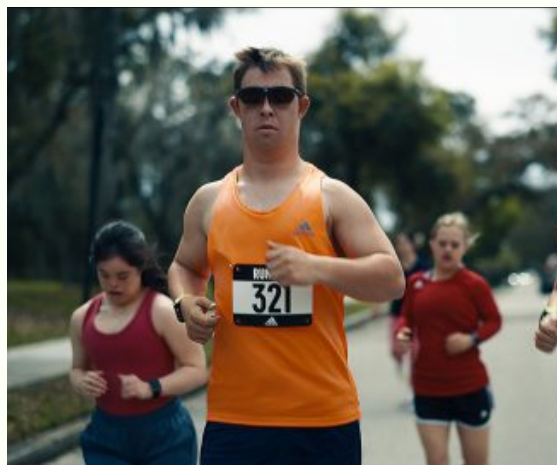
# Inclusion Stories

## New Lego Sets Feature Characters With A Range Of Disabilities

Lego is offering up a host of new characters with disabilities as part of a broader push for more diversity within its toy lineup.

The characters include those with Down syndrome, limb differences, anxiety, vitiligo and a dog with a wheelchair. They are part of Lego Friends — a collection of more detailed and realistic looking Lego characters — which has been reimagined to feature more diversity, with multiple skin tones, cultures, physical and non-visible disabilities and neurodiversity.

## Ironman With Down Syndrome Lobbies For Neurodivergent Athlete Category.



"Most people are born with 23 sets of paired chromosomes, one from each parent. But with Down syndrome, also known as Trisomy 21, there's a third chromosome at position No. 21. Based on that, Nikic will run the Chicago Marathon next fall with bib number 321 to spread awareness, and he hopes to run it in 3 hours, 21 minutes or less."



# Network Updates



## Website Analytics

Total Website Hits

56,055

User Engagement

44,546

Total Users

17,662

Files Downloaded

10,977

September 1st - February 27th



**[www.atia.org/InclusioninTexas](http://www.atia.org/InclusioninTexas)**

**Access Code: PD23INCLUSIONTX**

### **This Month's Featured Course**

#### **Connecting Technology, UDL, and Culturally Responsiveness in Early Childhood**

Effective practices of culturally responsiveness when using technology and UDL with young children are shared by Craig Blum, professor at Illinois State University.

#### Learning Objectives

1. Identify three elements of UDL that can be used to support culturally and linguistically diverse young children in an inclusive classroom.
2. Identify three practices and app selection methods that contribute to an inclusive early learning environment.
3. Discuss three evidence-based practices that can be used with apps in a culturally responsive learning environment to leverage desired outcomes for young children with a disability.

# Inclusion in Texas

## Free Hybrid Literacy for All Trainings

The Texas Education Agency and the Inclusion in Texas Network are providing three hybrid (in-person and virtual) Literacy for All sessions.

Literacy for All is a free, two-day training worth 12 continuing professional education credits. This training delves into the science of teaching reading & explores how cognitive processes impact learning foundational literacy skills.

57 participants from around the state participated in the February 27th and 28th session at ESC, Region 20 in San Antonio.

Continue to share the flier and encourage clients to join us for the March session at ESC, Region 14 in Abilene.

The flier features the TEA logo and the 'LITERACY FOR ALL' logo with an open book icon. It lists three hybrid events: February 27-28, 2023 (ESC, Region 20 in San Antonio), March 27-28, 2023 (ESC, Region 14 in Abilene), and June 14-15, 2023 (ESC, Region 7 in Kilgore). Each event includes a QR code and a registration link. A map of Texas highlights the three event locations with stars and the text '3 HYBRID EVENTS'.

## Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Professional Development Series is Available on TEALearn

A row of five cards for the UDL Professional Development Series. Each card is labeled 'FREE' and includes a 'Self-paced FREE | 6 credits' badge. The cards are: 1. Overview, 2. Framework, 3. Multiple Means of Engagement, 4. Multiple Means of Representation, and 5. Multiple Means of Action and Expression. Each card features a photograph of students and a brief description of the course content.