



CHRIS  
Newsletter

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C O M M E N T S

## A New Era: Timelines

by Karen Denbroeder

In 1999-2000, the US Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) visited Florida to monitor our implementation of the Individual with Disabilities Education Act, Part B and Part C. In their April 2001 report, OSEP included a finding regarding early childhood transition that stated: "Transition procedures do not ensure that a meeting is held 90 days prior to the child's third birthday." One of our strategies for addressing this finding was to utilize CHRIS to track transition of young children with disabilities from Part C to Part B for those children known to CHRIS.

In the redesign of CHRIS a tracking timeline was developed to provide information about early childhood transition. The collection of these data will allow all of us to identify those stages in the process where improvement is needed. Resources can then be focused to more effectively transition our young children with disabilities. An additional benefit to the tracking timeline is the ability to analyze our effectiveness in providing timely referral, evaluation, and placement of children with disabilities between the ages of 3 and 7 who are known to CHRIS.

The anticipated timeline for bringing all Centers on-line with CHRIS *Plus* should allow the collection of tracking timeline data to begin in July 2004. Prior to July 2004 we will not be reviewing timeline data. It is critical for us to collect this information so that we cannot only address the OSEP finding, but more importantly, so that we may insure timely transitions for our young children with disabilities and their families. Through CHRIS *Plus* we have an opportunity to contribute to this effort.



### CHRIS *Plus* Tutorial on the Web

Would you like to brush up on your CHRIS *Plus* skills before you start using your converted database? Check out the training tutorial demos available on the CHRIS website. Go to the CHRIS *Plus* Conversion Tutorial and select the

CHRIS *Plus* On-line Tutorial. The sessions include the following topics: Logging into CHRIS *Plus*, Using The Locator Screen, Adding a Child's Record, and Finding Records, as well as an overview of the CHRIS *Plus* Screen Structure.

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# CHRIS Points Program

The CHRIS Points Program was created to promote the use of CHRIS and to encourage users to give feedback about the program. This year points activities included: naming the new CHRIS Program, submitting newsletter stories and sending acknowledgment e-mails. Each year we identify our top sites and individual users for their performance. Outstanding sites and users are provided with CHRIS promotional materials to heighten awareness of the usefulness of the CHRIS program.

The CHRIS Points Program calendar year begins September 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on August 31<sup>st</sup>. Throughout the year we provide our users and sites with opportunities to earn CHRIS points. We invite all of our users to become active members of this program. Thank you to all those who participated this past year.

## Site Points Program

The Site CHRIS Points Program is open to all locations that have a CHRIS database. This year's top scoring sites received a CD shredder.



### Top Site CHRIS Point Earners

- FDLRS/East Associate Center, Brevard County
- FDLRS/Gateway Associate Center
- FDLRS/Heartland Associate Center Glades/Hendry County
- FDLRS/Reach Associate Center
- FDLRS/South Associate Center, Dade County
- FDLRS/Sarasota Associate Center, Sarasota County
- FDLRS/Sunrise Associate Center, Polk County

## Individual Points Program

The individual CHRIS Points Program is open to all CHRIS users. CHRIS promotional materials were sent to the DBA of each site for distribution to the participating users.

### Top Individual Point Earners

- Gail Brown, FDLRS/Crown Associate Center, Duval County
- Susana Cossio, FDLRS/South Associate Center, Dade County
- Charlette Pitman, FDLRS/Miccosukee Associate Center, Leon County
- Ruthie Rieder, Early Intervention Services Orlando, Orange County

For more information on CHRIS Points, please see the CHRIS website: <http://www.chris.miami.edu>.



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**CHRIS Comments**  
Newsletter Schedule for 2003-2004  
August, November, February, May

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# Effectiveness of Preschool Screening at Identifying Children With Disabilities

by Dr. Christine Delgado

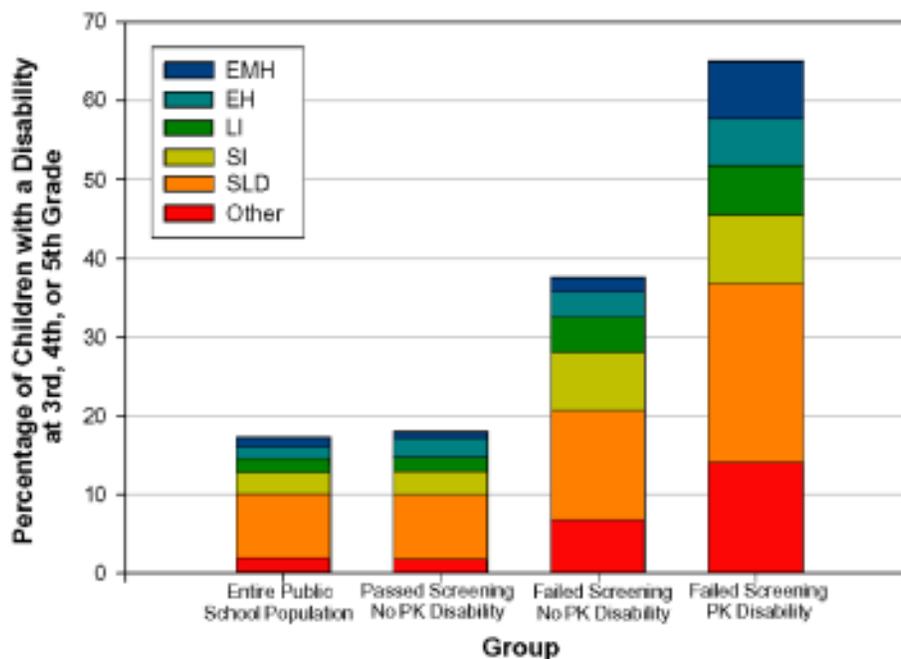
The efficacy of the preschool screening program used in Florida to identify children with disabilities was examined using a sample consisting of 11,384 children (7,178 boys) who were born in Florida, screened for a disability when they were 3 or 4 years-old, and had outcome disability data available at 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, or 5<sup>th</sup> grade from the 2001-2002 Florida public school records. Children were categorized into three groups based on the outcome of preschool screenings and their preschool eligibility status. Children in the Pass Screening No Disability (PND) group passed the preschool screening and did not receive further evaluation. Children in the Fail Screening No Disability (FND) group failed the preschool screening, received further evaluation, and were determined ineli-

gible for special education services. Children in the Fail Screening Disability (FD) group failed the preschool screening, received further evaluation, and were determined eligible for special education services.

The proportion of children with an outcome disability was 17.2% for the entire public school population, 17.9% for the PND group, 37.6% for the FND group and 65.0% for the FD group. The majority of children in the PND and FND groups who had an identified outcome disability were specific learning disabled (46.1% and 37.0%, respectively) or speech/language impaired (26.6% and 31.5%, respectively). Of the children in the FD group who did not have a disability at outcome, 73.6% were identified with

speech/language impairment as preschoolers. This study revealed an overall sensitivity of 86.5% and a specificity of 87.7% for the Florida screening program.

This screening program is doing an effective job of identifying children who need special education services. Efforts to improve early identification should focus on preschool children who failed screenings but were not identified with a disability. Over one-third of these children were enrolled in special education later in elementary school. Early identification and service provision undoubtedly played an integral role in the shift from special education to regular education for the 35% of children who were identified with a disability as preschoolers but not at outcome.



## Training Update

CHRIS *Plus* User Training was conducted from September 2003 to January 2004. Aimee Astte along with Rachael Spanjer and Olga Camacho toured the state conducting 12 training sessions at 10 locations for a total of 180 users.

*The Training Tour included the following locations:*

- University of Miami, Coral Gables
- FDLRS/Reach Associate Center, Fort Lauderdale
- FDLRS/Gateway Associate Center, Lake City
- FDLRS/Miccosukee Associate Center, Tallahassee
- FDLRS/Suncoast Associate Center, Sarasota
- FDLRS/Sunrise Associate Center, Bartow
- FDLRS/East Associate Center, Melbourne
- FDLRS/Crown Associate Center, Jacksonville
- FDLRS/Action Associate Center, Orlando
- FDLRS/Gulfcoast Associate Center, Clearwater

*We would like to thank the center managers, DBAs and staff that assisted in coordinating these successful training sessions.*

## Coming Soon: DBA Training

If you are a new DBA that needs training, please contact Annie at [annie@miami.edu](mailto:annie@miami.edu).

## SAVE THE DATE

**September 9 & 10, 2004**

*CHRIS Plus  
Citrix Training  
for all DBAs*

Orlando, Florida



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