

## **Enhancing Services For Infants And Toddlers With Special Needs**

### **Rossetti Conference Summary:**

#### **Risk Assessment and Developmental Expectations for High Risk Infants and Toddlers (Morning of Friday, October 14)**

This session will explore risk factors including prematurity, low birth weight, maternal factors, social and psychological factors, issues related to labor and delivery, and factors in the neonatal and post natal period that contribute to developmental risk status. The concepts of "at-risk" and "established risk" will be discussed in the context of clinically relevant applications. Participants will discuss developmental expectations for various populations of at-risk and handicapped infants and toddlers. Epidemiologic principles relative to risk will be presented from an international perspective. An overview of low incidence populations of infants and toddlers; to include drug exposed, genetically involved and fetal alcohol syndrome children, will be covered.

#### **Developmental Assessment of Infants and Toddlers with Special Needs (Afternoon Friday, October 14)**

The overall purpose of this session is to discuss relevant issues related to developmental assessment of infants and toddlers with special needs. Topics to be discussed include the status of infant-toddler assessment, recipients of assessment activity, general and specific assessment concerns, choosing assessment instruments, developmental domains to be assessed, and the correct interpretation and reporting of assessment results. This session is highly clinical in nature. Common problems faced by the assessor will be discussed with participant participation encouraged.

#### **Early Intervention Practices (Morning of Saturday, October 15)**

This session will alert early intervention professionals to a variety of issues related to intervention for children with special needs, and their families. Issues to be discussed include models of service delivery, models of team functioning, intervention with parents and caregivers, intervention in the home, center and neonatal intensive care nursery, and measuring program efficacy. This session is highly clinical in nature. Participant discussion will be encouraged.

## **Enhancing Parent/Caregiver Involvement In Early Intervention (Afternoon Saturday, October 15)**

One of the major initiatives of current legislation designed to meet the needs of children with special needs is the degree to which the family is recognized as critical to the success of intervention activities. This session will review the concepts of attachment, and how to enhance caregiver involvement in early intervention. A variety of specific clinical examples will be provided as family issues are discussed, with participant involvement encouraged.

### **About Dr. Rossetti:**

Dr. Rossetti is Professor Emeritus of Communicative Disorders at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. He is an internationally recognized authority on services to infants, toddlers, and their families; and is a frequent presenter at professional conferences throughout the world. He is the author of five books on infants and toddlers with special needs. He is the author of the Rossetti Infant-Toddler Language Scale, the most widely used communication assessment scale for children under three years of age in the world. He is the founding editor of *Infant Toddler Intervention: The Transdisciplinary Journal*, and has been named a fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.