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Tuesday, April 11, 2017

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alabama communities celebrate 'Early Intervention Week'

MONTGOMERY – The seven districts of Alabama's Early Intervention System (AEIS) have planned several special events for the week of April 17-21 to celebrate the vital role early intervention plays in the success of children with disabilities or developmental delays.

The celebrations are part of "Early Intervention Week" in the state of Alabama. Former Gov. Robert Bentley signed a proclamation in late March to set aside a week to honor the thousands of children and families assisted by AEIS each year.

"We are excited to promote the importance of the first three years of life and the impact of services and supports to Alabama's babies and families," said Betsy Prince, statewide AEIS coordinator. "Quality early intervention services can change the outcomes for our young children with developmental delays."

Studies indicate that 85 percent of a child's brain develops in the first three years of life and that investing in early childhood programs increases the effectiveness of public schools, develops better educated workers, and reduces crime.

As part of the commemoration, Prince said that each AEIS district will zero in on local resources, day care facilities and Public Health offices to increase awareness of the benefits of early intervention. Each district will also host a "Family Day" on Friday, April 21, where families will write letters to legislators to share their personal stories of the impact Early Intervention has had on their lives.

Alabama's Early Intervention System is a program of the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, the state agency whose mission is to enable Alabama's children and adults with disabilities to achieve their maximum potential.

For information about Early Intervention Week events in your local area, contact Shannon Foster at (334) 293-7066.

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