

# J.E.S.S.E. Newsletter

## December 2017



### Professional Development Opportunities



#### Focus on Inclusion Conference - Feb. 1-2 (Indianapolis)

-This two day conference is highly recommended for special education and general education teachers, administrators, and related service providers. Several national speakers will be presenting during multiple break-out sessions. This is truly one of the best conferences to attend in the state! Register [HERE!](#)

#### TEACCH (Autism Program Model) - 5 day training: June 11-15, 2018 (Indianapolis)

This five-day course provides a theoretical foundation as well as hands-on opportunities to assess and teach elementary through high school-aged children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in a model classroom setting. Click [HERE](#) to view a short overview video of the TEACCH Method. If interested, register [HERE](#) through the Indiana Resource Center for Autism (IRCA).

#### Alternate Assessments (ISTAR)

Which students are candidates for the Alternate Assessment? IDOE outlines the criteria for students who would be a likely candidate to take ISTAR in lieu of ISTEP+. The (four) criteria questions are also listed within IIEP under the State Assessments tab for the case conference committee to discuss and determine if the student is a candidate for participation in alternate assessment.

<https://www.doe.in.gov/sites/default/files/assessment/indiana-participation-guidance.pdf>

Here is some additional information and guidance regarding ISTAR in conjunction with Project Success:

<https://learningconnection.doe.in.gov/UserGroup/GroupDetailAnnouncements.aspx?gid=879>

#### IDOE Coffee Talks - Accommodations for Testing

Daily Classroom vs Statewide Standardized Testing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQWWVvmaIHA&feature=youtu.be>

#### JESSE Website Updates

Be sure to check the JESSE website periodically for new resources. Recently added guidance documents include such things as new Transition Assessment information, guidance on determining ED fulltime vs. parttime, SDI guidance, as well as links to guidance on Universal Design for Learning (UDL).

## Meet the Staff - OTA's

### Chris Eaton

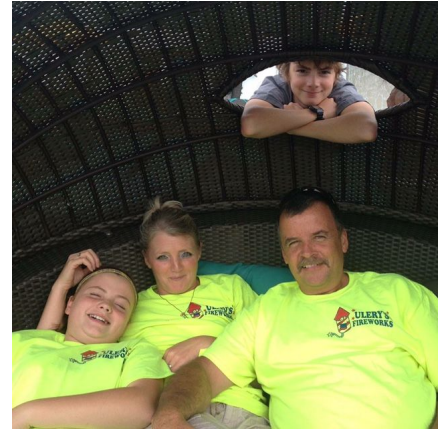
Chris is a 2002 graduate of Michiana College where she earned her Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA) degree. Before that, she went to Manchester College earning a degree in Early Childhood Education in 1980. Chris started working for First Steps in 1992. She has continued to hold credentials as both a Developmental Therapist and a COTA to the present time. She also worked for St Joseph's Regional Medical Center in Pediatric Therapy from 2002 till 2009 until coming to work for JESSE in 2009. During my time at SJRMC I worked with Courtney Fuchs, Kelsey Beatty, and Jenny Dorrell, so coming to JESSE was wonderful because I could work with friends again! Chris lives in Plymouth has 3 grown children and 4 grandchildren.



### Cheryl Ulery

Cheryl has worked as a COTA for almost 20 years with the majority of that time having been in the public school system. Her first three years was spent working in an outpatient pediatric clinic. She absolutely loves working with children and seeing the gains they make in reaching their goals. This is Cheryl's second

school year working with JESSE. Currently, she provides services for students at Menominee Elementary in Plymouth, Argos, and Culver schools. Cheryl is a lifelong resident of Logansport. She is married to Greg, a firefighter and has two kids- 16-year-old son, Evan and 13-year-old daughter, Erin. They keep Greg and Cheryl busy with golf, volleyball, and riding and showing two of our three horses.



### Beverly McDaniel

Beverly has been an OTA since July of 2016. Her journey with JESSE started last October (2016) as an internship that turned into a sub position, which lead to a full time position this year. Beverly enjoys working for JESSE and hopes to be here for many more years. She will be married 17 years next month, and has four daughters. In addition, she and her husband have been raising their nephew since he was 5 months old... he is now 7 years old.

