SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Healthy Connections
BABYNET

S.C. Department of Education
Office of Special Education Services

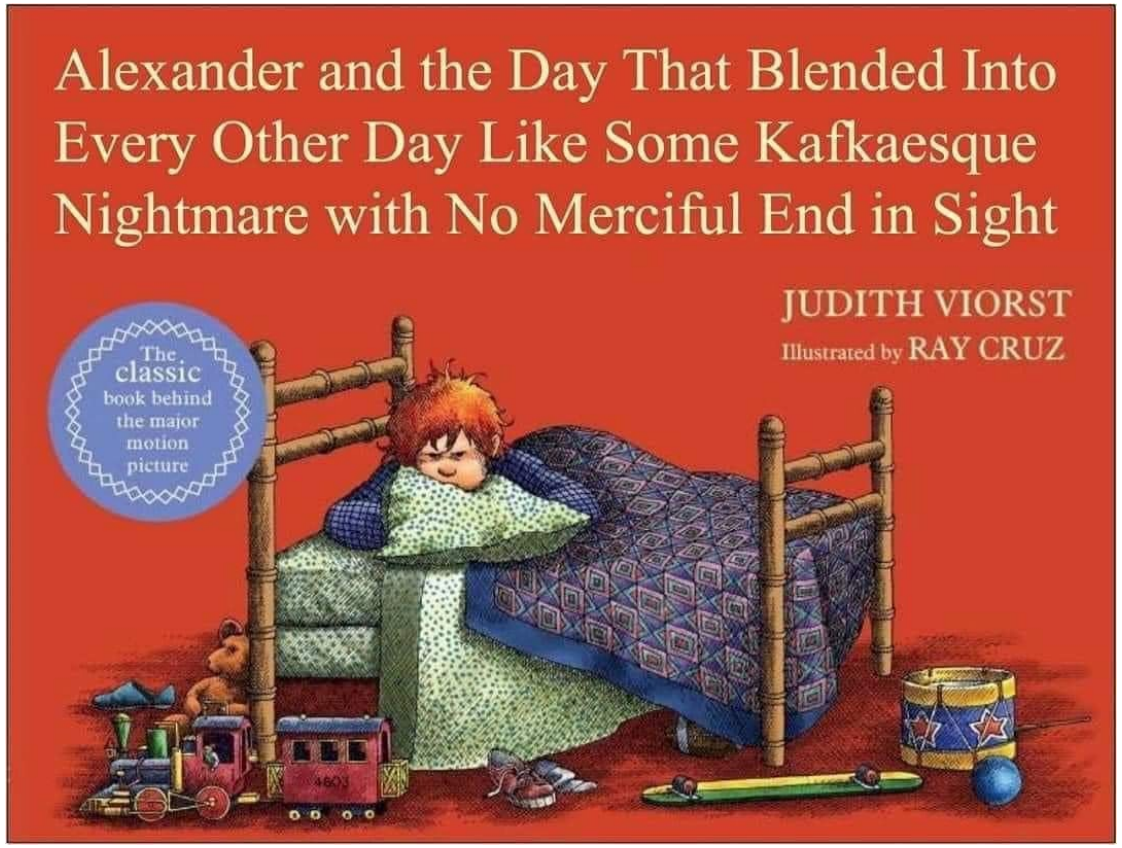
BabyNet & Early Childhood Education Services

Nurturing Developing Minds Conference

Jennifer Buster and Jenny May

Welcome and Introductions:

In the chat, please type your name, role, and a children's book to illustrate how you're feeling right now?



Agenda

12:30—Welcome, Overview and Ice Breaker

12:35—Purpose of Early Intervention Services and rights of young children under IDEA

12:45—IDEA in the context of COVID (to include Child Find and Transition)

- Part C services
- Part B 619 service

1:15— Questions

1:30 —Optimistic Closure, Thank you and Goodbye.

Differences Between Parts C and B 619

Part C: 0-3

- Central referral
- Central directory
- Regional offices
- Contracted providers
- Natural environment
- Eligibility

Part B 619 3-5 not yet Kindergarten

- School district referral
- School district provided services
- State Department
- Services in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE
- Preschool early childhood environments vary
- Eligibility includes Adverse educational effect

Purpose of IDEA Part C/BabyNet Services

- The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) outlines how services must be delivered to children and families in each state.
- BabyNet is South Carolina's Part C system of services for infants and toddler's birth to three who have a developmental delay, or a diagnosed condition associated with a high probability of developmental delay.

Child & Family Rights

- Federal & State laws and their regulations require families be informed of their right to the following:
  - Receive prior written notice of actions that affect their child
  - Understand and consent to ALL activities and written records about their child
  - Confidentiality of all information related to their child and the right to inspect records upon request
  - Ability to accept or decline services without jeopardy
  - Be informed of procedures for resolving complaints

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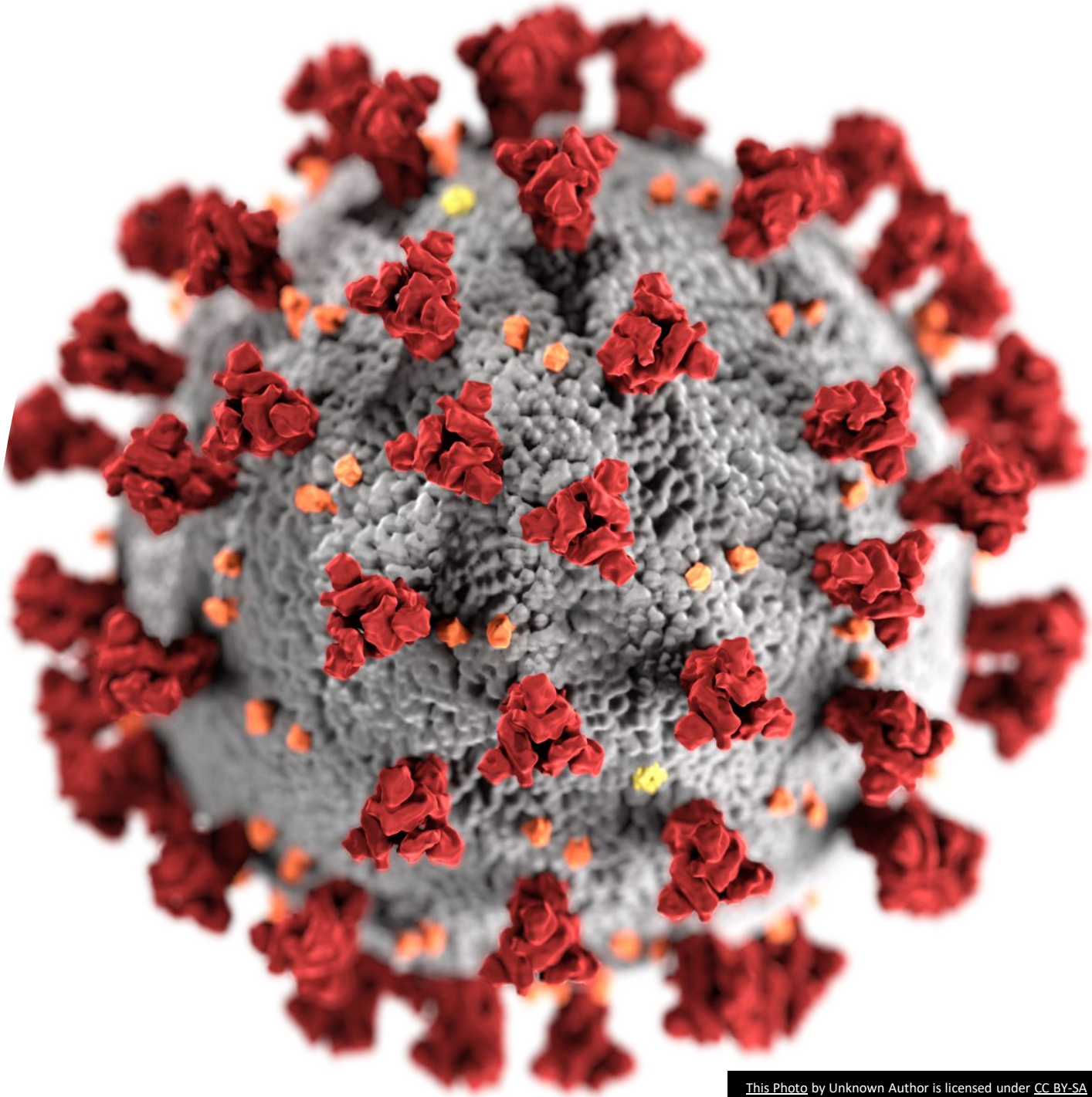
COVID-19

SCDHHS' and BabyNet's response to the pandemic:

1. Communication

2. Practice Changes

3. Other COVID Related Information



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Communication

- SCDHHS worked quickly to disseminate information to providers
- SCDHHS issued additional COVID-19 related guidance through FAQs posted on dedicated COVID-19 website.

Date	Target Audience
March 27, 2020	Therapy Providers
March 28, 2020	Behavioral Health Providers
March 30, 2020	Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Providers
March 30, 2020	Early Intervention Providers
April 30, 2020	Early Intervention Providers
July 9, 2020	Early Intervention Providers

Practice Changes

- Authorized the use of tele-health with parameters.
- Mode of delivery changed with case counts.
- BabyNet Eligibility went from in-person visits to telehealth and began using the BDI 2 Screener along with other medical records to determine eligibility
- COVID caused a drop in the number of children referred for approximately 2 weeks, then referral numbers stabilized and have continued to climb.
    - December 1, 2019 6318 children-December 1, 2020 6703 children (+385)
    - One positive: Our Indicator 7 data increased from approximately 75.7% to 97.6%

General COVID-19 Information

- BabyNet program added 2 service delay codes: COVID-family and COVID-system
- Participated in national COVID calls to learn from other states
- SCDHHS conducted a webinar in April 2020 to allow providers to ask questions
- Part C and B were in constant contact about transition related issues to ensure we were communicating with the provider community

COVID & Other Considerations

- Many providers are back to providing a hybrid model of service delivery.
- Some early intervention staff have been vaccinated.
- Some companies lost staff at the beginning of the pandemic and it remains to be seen if they will re-hire.
- Early Childhood providers will need to pay attention to data on efficacy of tele-health interventions. “Zoom fatigue”
- This delivery method is not without challenges.
- Will telehealth remain an option going forward?
- Most important thing to remember is child and family rights remain in place and it’s our job to ensure services are delivered!

Section 619 of IDEA

- Children ages 3,4,5 (not yet Kindergarten) eligible for special education services are entitled to:
  - Seamless transition from Part C
  - Eligibility determination within IDEA timelines
  - Free Appropriate Public Education
  - Access to general education environment and typically developing peers

But What During a Pandemic?!

Rights and Protections Under IDEA REMAIN!

- While the context of education has changed, children with disabilities are still entitled to:
  - Seamless transition from Parts C to B 619
  - Access to services in the natural/least restrictive environment
  - Timely services

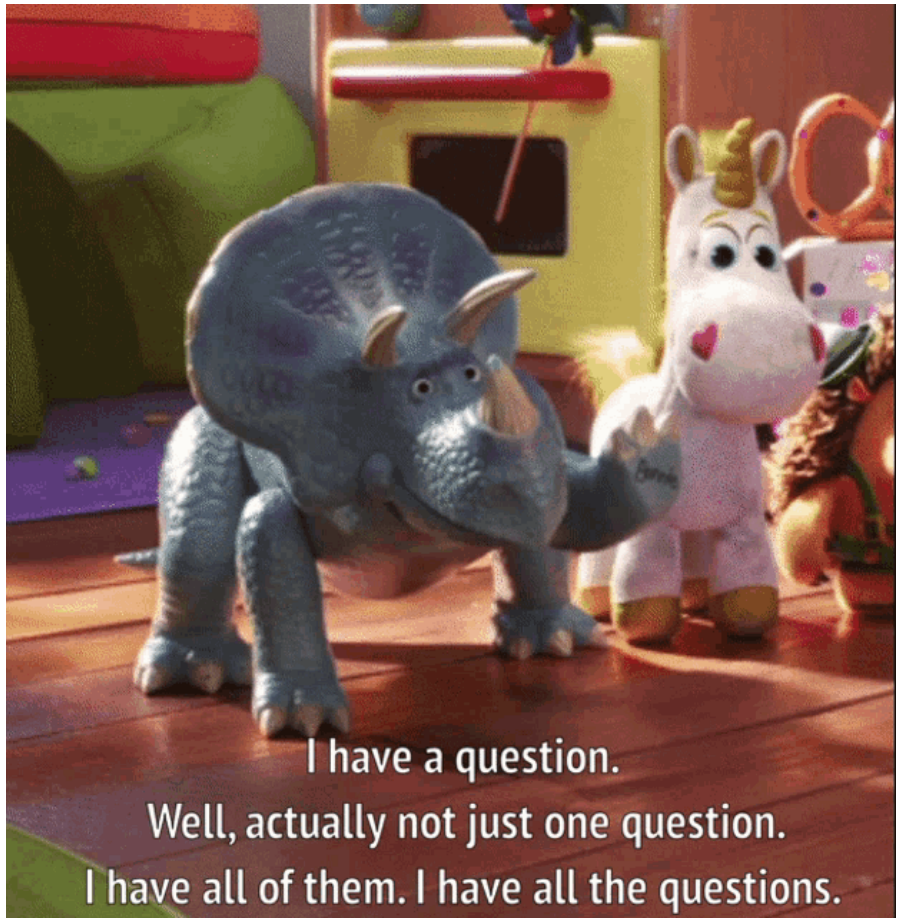
What is Part B 619 doing?

- Local control around virtual, hybrid, face to face early childhood
- Guidance from individual early childhood sectors for programs not in school districts
- Resources
- Calls with district leadership

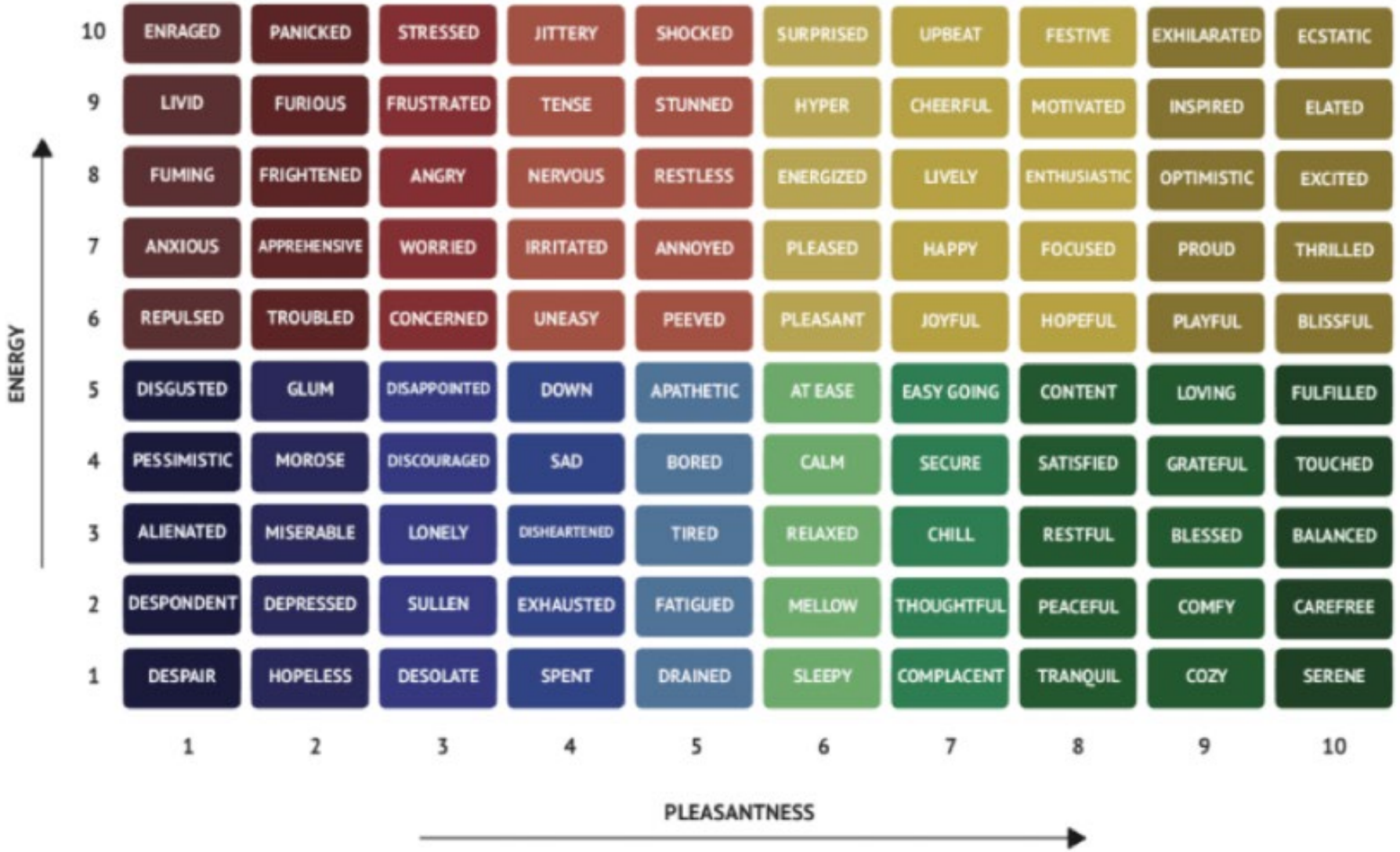
Communications and Resources

- Covid communications with Special Education Directors
- SCDE COVID 19 website
- SCDE Remote Learning Portal
- OSES Virtual and Hybrid Resources Page
  - Preschool Special Education Supports

Questions?


I have a question.
Well, actually not just one question.
I have all of them. I have all the questions.

Closing Activity



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Thank you!