

# FAREWELL TO FRIENDS

## Transitions

-Linda Tuchman and Jill Haglund

In the month of August we wished Mary Peters and Arianna Keil well in their transitions to new positions.



With great appreciation, we send Arianna Keil our very best regards as she transitions into a new phase of her professional path. We honor her contributions and thank her for the gift of her time and hard work. She found her way to the Waisman Center over four years ago from an ad in the newspaper. When we saw that she was a physician by training and that her family had experienced early intervention, we knew she was the perfect match for our work. Furthermore, she had all of us in stitches during her interview. Arianna quickly soaked up the guiding principles and practices within the community of Birth to 3 Programs and delved into a number of other related activities. Some of these experiences led to opportunities to conduct outreach, first to child care professionals, and then with physicians to promote the importance of universal screening and early identification of developmental concerns; use of valid screening tools such as the *Ages and Stages Questionnaire*, and referral to early intervention, schools and other community settings. This turned out to be the perfect evolution for her experiences. As we wish her well in her new endeavors with Panel Intelligence, let us reflect upon what we learned from Arianna.

### Top 10 reasons we will miss Arianna - Lessons Learned

1. Always keep a sense of humor; regardless of the situation, it helps to find the lighter side of serious and not so serious experiences. Don't worry so much if it is "just things" and not people.
2. Listen! Listen! Listen!
3. Sound advice and input on a myriad of topics often comes from an eloquent, soft spoken voice.
4. It is possible to find the common ground among health care and early intervention/childhood professionals.
5. Be patient with questions, provide encouragement and use kind words, no matter the topic of the conversation.
6. Be organized and prepared. Details matter.
7. To increase credibility and gain "buy in" have thorough knowledge of the literature that contains the research and evidence-base that supports our work. Go directly to the original source.
8. Always strive to help families realize that their children are their strengths and capabilities, not their diagnosis and deficits.
9. Politeness and manners are not out of date; they go a long way in showing respect and opening the doors for relationships.
10. When you learn something pass it along to someone else.



We also offer deep appreciation to Mary Peters, who served as the early childhood consultant for the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction since 2003. Her contributions to the early childhood community are countless. It is nearly impossible to separate thoughts of Mary from a big vision for children and families. Her gifts range from a propensity for thinking in pictures to analyzing data in answer to the question, "Is what we are doing making a difference?" In her new position with Nicolet Area Technical College, she will continue to contribute to our vision by touching the lives of those seeking higher education to improve the quality of early childhood. While Mary will be connected in new ways, we will miss her participation in many statewide initiatives.

### Top 10 reasons we will miss Mary - Lessons Learned

1. See the hidden (spiritual) wholeness of people.
2. We are better together.
3. Speak the truth.
4. Dream big.
5. Look for teachable moments and support natural learning.
6. Challenge the existing order for the betterment of the children.
7. Technology is really our friend - try it.
8. Find an organizational style that works for you - even if you have to change it frequently.
9. No act of kindness goes unnoticed.
10. Follow your heart.

## A Message from Arianna

It has been my pleasure to serve the early intervention community over the past four years. I have thoroughly enjoyed editing and writing for EVENTS, as well as assisting in other statewide professional development opportunities in my work at Waisman Center.

I am starting a new position with an online medical information company based in Boston called Panel Intelligence. I worked with this team in a different capacity when my children were very young. Although I will miss many people, I am looking forward to this new work and the challenges it will bring.

I wish you all the best in your meaningful work serving children and families.

Sincerely,



Arianna Keil

## *Saying Goodbye to Very Young Children*

by John Updike

Available at The Poetry Foundation <http://www.poetryfoundation.org/>

They will not be the same next time. The sayings so cute, just slightly off, will be corrected. Their eyes will be more skeptical, plugged in the more securely to the worldly buzz of television, alphabet, and street talk, culture polluting their gazes' pure blue. It makes you see at last the value of those boring aunts and neighbors (their smells of summer sweat and cigarettes, their faces like shapes of sky between shade-giving leaves) who knew you from the start, when you were zero, cooing their nothings before you could be bored or knew a name, not even your own, or how this world brave with hellos turns all goodbye.

# *Birth to 6* EVENTS



Waisman Center

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