

WRITE TO READ: An Evidence-Based Approach to Promoting Health Literacy in an Early Intervention System



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Introduction: Health literacy is the ability to obtain, read, and understand health information in order to make informed health decisions. Low health literacy is a global public health problem that contributes to increased health care costs, greater health-care disparities, and decreased health results. Nearly 9 out of 10 U.S adults have difficulty accessing the health information necessary for meeting everyday health needs for themselves or their family members. Health care providers need to use best practice strategies to offer accessible and readable health information to a diverse population of adults.

Objectives: The objective of this program is the development an online workshop entitled, *WRITE TO READ: An Evidence-Based Approach to Promoting Health Literacy in an Early Intervention System*. The target audience is direct service providers serving client families of children, ages 0-3 receiving early intervention services. If the early intervention providers have an increased understanding of the impact of health literacy on client family participation, then client families may benefit from more effective program information that meets the health literacy needs of all clients.

Design: This pilot program will use a synchronous distance education platform to deliver an online workshop to participants across the state of Tennessee. Each of three online sessions will disseminate health literacy skills and knowledge, as well as promote peer collaboration and problem solving in a virtual community of learning environment.

Participants: Workshop participants will include physical, occupational and speech therapists, all providing service coordination for client families in the Tennessee state early intervention system.

Results: The outcomes of this proposed pilot project is anticipated to serve as a protocol for future online workshops to promote greater understanding of health literacy concepts, theories, and interventions to a global occupational therapy community. Furthermore, the results of this program will lead to increased understanding of the global impact of limited health literacy on consumer health outcomes, health care costs, and health care disparities.