



Dear Members of our NFI Community,

These are extraordinary times that we are living through together. The coronavirus pandemic is challenging us on all fronts - from care of ourselves, our families and our communities, to care of others in difficult circumstances in and around our places of work – especially within hospitals. Our daily routines are changed. In many places around the world, we are being mandated to stay at home. The phrase “social distancing” is being used to describe the strategy to slow the spread of the virus. Yet, Heidelise Als writes *physical distancing while staying ever more strongly socially and emotionally connected is so important; we must remember that social and emotional connectedness is what makes us genuinely (species-specifically) human.*

Our month-long March celebration of NIDCAP was held during these trying world events. Our NFI community is “physically distanced” while very much “socially and emotionally connected” to one another. We found very many creative ways to honor hospitalized babies and their families around the world and the professionals and supporters who care for them. Please visit the [World NIDCAP Day](#) page to access links to all of our social media where AMAZING, INCREDIBLE posts were shared throughout March including NFI members’ NIDCAP sentiments and NFI “Pearls of Wisdom” for parents with hospitalized newborns and infants (special appreciation to Mandy Daly, Fatima Clemente and Dalia Silberstein for bringing this idea to life). You are welcome to continue to share the beautiful ways in which you honored NIDCAP and one another to [shareyourstory@nidcap.org](mailto:shareyourstory@nidcap.org). (As always be sure you have permissions to share any images you send.)

One very heartbreaking effect of this virus around the world is its impact on families to be with, hold, and participate in their infants’ hospital experiences. The NFI Board of Directors offers the following statement to health care systems and teams navigating how to best support parents’ care and nurturance of their babies (below and attached):

*The NIDCAP Federation International (NFI) holds as a primary goal the support of parents as the optimal caregivers of their infant. Parental presence, including skin to skin holding and breastfeeding, and active collaboration with their hospitalized infant and the health care team, enhances the infant's neurodevelopment.*

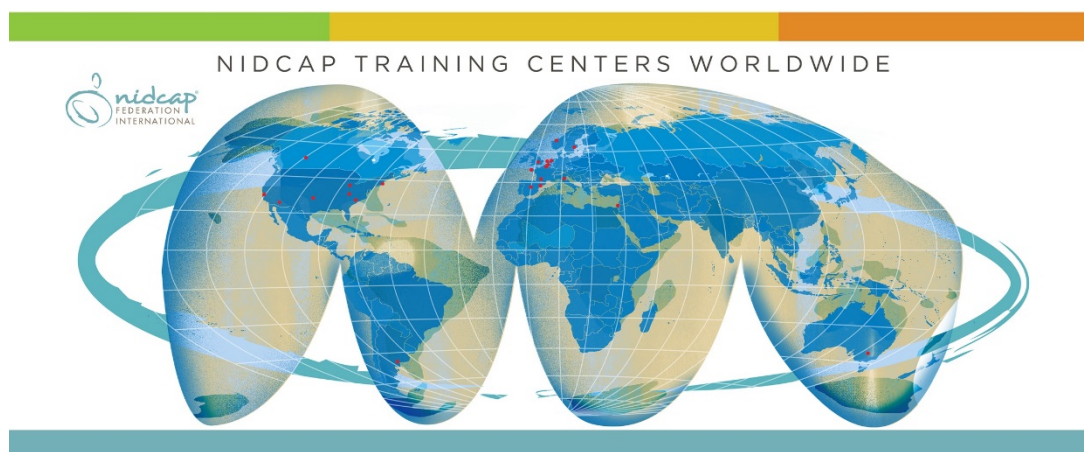
*Despite increasingly stringent rules for access to hospitalized newborns and infants due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the NFI recognizes that the safety and health of infants, parents and the health care team may require modification of guidelines and policies. Screening for fever and other symptoms of illness now becomes more important than ever before.*

*The NFI recommends that parental presence, active participation and advocacy continue to be considered a unique aspect of care that shortens the duration of hospitalization and improves other outcomes. The NFI commends the valiant efforts of health care teams around the world in their support and care to infants, their families and one another during these unprecedented times. The NFI sends support, strength and hope as we navigate this challenging pandemic crisis.*

*Board of Directors, NIDCAP Federation International  
March 31, 2020*

As we are all touched by this pandemic, its disruptions and its effects, let's hold on to our steadfast belief in the healing and supportive power of relationships and interpersonal connections. And we can continue to search for ways our NFI community can sustain and uplift one another as we navigate our way to steadier, healthier, happier times.

## NFI News & Updates



### **31<sup>st</sup> Annual NIDCAP Trainers Meeting and 2020 NFI Annual Membership Meeting**

In light of the worldwide coronavirus pandemic, it was determined that it is not feasible to meet in-person in Germany this fall. Please hold the original **October 24-26, 2020** meeting dates while next steps and plans are made for alternative, likely virtual, meetings. Updates will be shared as soon as they are available!

## New NFI Website

Under Development

\*\*\*PLEASE HELP IF POSSIBLE\*\*\*

PLEASE SEND (HIGH RESOLUTION) PHOTOGRAPHS OF  
BABIES with their FAMILIES  
and also with NURSERY CAREGIVERS (using the attached Release Form)

### NIDCAP Educational Podcast

gretchen Lawhon recorded a VERY excellent podcast on behalf of the NFI in March! She was interviewed by pediatrician Katie Lockwood for the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's *Primary Care Perspectives* podcast series. [Here is the link for you to listen](#). (Note: you may also find this link on [nidcap.org](http://nidcap.org)'s [World NIDCAP Day](#) page.) With tremendous appreciation to Jennifer Degl for facilitating this NFI treasure.

#### NFI Board of Directors

##### Video Conference Call Minutes

March 2, 2020

##### Highlights

When available the full NFI Board of Director Minutes will be posted within our website's [Membership Section](#). The following is a summary of Board discussions from March's meeting.

- Discussion of plans for World NIDCAP Day and Month celebrations.
- Plan to electronically approve the Minutes from the February Board of Directors Meeting.
- Discussion of the potential impact of the coronavirus on the Board's Mid-Year Meeting.
- Discussion of ways to solicit Trainers' feedback on the 2019 NIDCAP Trainers Meeting's small group sessions.
- Update of the designs and plans underway for the updated NFI website.
- Vote to continue NIDCAP Nursery Program Director's contract for 12 hours/week for the second half of this fiscal year.

#### NFI Board of Directors

##### Update

The NFI Board of Directors determined that due to the impact of the worldwide coronavirus, the March 30-31 Board of Directors Mid-Year Meeting was postponed and will be held as a series of virtual meetings over the coming months.

Yours in support of the NFI,

Deborah

Deborah Buehler, PhD  
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NIDCAP Federation International  
Board of Directors  
Position Statement

Guidance Around the COVID-19 Pandemic

The NIDCAP Federation International (NFI) holds as a primary goal the support of parents as the optimal caregivers of their infant. Parental presence, including skin-to-skin holding and breastfeeding, and active collaboration with their hospitalized infant and the health care team, enhances the infant's neurodevelopment.

Despite increasingly stringent rules for access to hospitalized newborns and infants due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the NFI recognizes that the safety and health of infants, parents and the health care team may require modification of guidelines and policies. Screening for fever and other symptoms of illness now becomes more important than ever before.

The NFI recommends that parental presence, active participation and advocacy continue to be considered a unique aspect of care that shortens the duration of hospitalization and improves other outcomes. The NFI commends the valiant efforts of health care teams around the world in their support and care to infants, their families and one another during these unprecedented times. The NFI sends support, strength and hope as we navigate this challenging pandemic crisis.

Board of Directors  
NIDCAP Federation International  
March 31, 2020



## Photography Release Form

I/We, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_  
hereby authorize the *NIDCAP Federation International, Inc.*, to publish photographs of myself and/or my minor  
child \_\_\_\_\_.

I hereby authorize the *NIDCAP Federation International, Inc.* (NFI) to edit, copy, and publish said photographs in one or more of the following: *Developmental Observer*, the NFI's official newsletter; "NIDCAP Blog", the organization's official blog platform; on the NFI's official website [www.nidcap.org](http://www.nidcap.org); or on one of the NFI's social media platforms: Facebook, Twitter, or Pinterest. In addition, I waive my right to review the finished product.

I understand that my and or my infant's/child's name may accompany the photograph, however no last name or address will be included with my or my infant's/child's photograph when published.

I further acknowledge that my participation is voluntary and that I will not receive financial compensation of any type associated with the publication of these images.

I hereby hold harmless, release and forever discharge the NIDCAP Federation International, Inc, its contractors, its members, and any third party involved in the publication of its web materials, from liability, from any claims by me or any third party in connection with my participation.

### Authorization

I am at least 18 years of age and am competent to contract in my own name. I have read this release before signing below and I fully understand the contents, meaning and impact of this release.

Printed Name:

Signature:

Date:

Email address:

I am at least 18 years of age and am competent to contract in my own name. I have read this release before signing below and I fully understand the contents, meaning and impact of this release.

Printed Name:

Signature:

Date:

Email address:

Please return this form by email to Sandra Kosta at [shareyourstory@nidcap.org](mailto:shareyourstory@nidcap.org)