

CONNECTing Professional Development to 2014 DEC Recommended Practices in Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education and Position Statement on Inclusion

Presentation at 2014 DEC Conference

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There has been an increased emphasis on strengthening clinical components in all teacher education programs (NCATE, 2010), and bridging research, policy, and practice. The revised DEC RP help bridge research and practice as well as provide guidance for early childhood professionals on how to work with diverse children with disabilities and their families. However, for early childhood professionals to develop their skills and confidence in using RP, they need to be able to see what the practices look like and have opportunities to practice using them. CONNECT modules and other professional development resources can help teacher educators strengthen clinical components in their course content and provide learners with opportunities to practice using specific evidence-based practices including those addressed in the revised set of DEC RP. The modules are free, web-based, multi-media resources, each focused on a specific evidence-based practice and organized around a 5-Step Learning Cycle™, an evidence-based decision-making approach to professional development. The foci of the CONNECT modules are embedded interventions, transitions, communication for collaboration, family/professional partnerships, assistive technology, dialogic reading, and tiered instruction in early childhood. The modules are applicable to meeting the individual needs of young children and their families in a variety of settings. All the modules have been field tested and have been rated as being useful, relevant and of high quality by faculty. The modules have been used in all 50 states and over 170 countries in a variety of formats and settings. In 2013, CONNECT modules website saw over 83,000 visitors who generated over 600,000 pageviews.

To find CONNECT modules go here: <http://community.fpg.unc.edu/connect-modules/>

Objectives: Participants will:

1. Learn how to incorporate and infuse FREE online modules and other professional development into existing professional development (PD) efforts.
2. Gain an in-depth knowledge about an instructional design sequence for PD that supports the close coupling of clinical practice and content and aids in building critical thinking and evidence-based decisions in learners.
3. Learn how CONNECT Modules are aligned with the revised DEC RP and DEC/NAEYC Joint Position Statement on Inclusion
4. Actively embed the module resources into their upcoming PD coursework, seminars and other contexts to help learners learn and apply the revised 2014 DEC RP.

Handouts (available on the DEC Conference website and here:

<http://connect.fpg.unc.edu/resources/connect-presents-2014-dec-conference/>):

Aligning CONNECT Modules with 2014 DEC Recommended Practices in Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education

Aligning DEC Joint Position Statement on Inclusion with DEC Recommended Practices and Professional Development Resources

Aligning CONNECT Modules with NAEYC and DEC Personnel Preparation Standards. CONNECT Instructor Resource