

CONNECT

The Center to Mobilize
Early Childhood Knowledge

<http://community.fpg.unc.edu/connect>

CONNECT is working with the early childhood community to create web-based, instructional resources for faculty and other professional development providers that focus on and respond to challenges faced each day by those working with young children with disabilities and their families.

The modules are designed to build early childhood practitioners' abilities to make evidence-based decisions. They emphasize a decision-making process, realistic problems to solve, the importance of integrating multiple perspectives and sources of knowledge, the relevance and quality of content, and feedback.

Each module includes five steps

1. **Dilemma.** Consider a dilemma.
2. **Question.** Turn the dilemma into an answerable question.
3. **Evidence.** Consider key sources of general evidence (definition, research, policies, experience-based knowledge).
4. **Decision.** Integrate sources of evidence with different perspectives and unique contexts to make an informed decision.
5. **Evaluation.** Evaluate the practice decision.

Information is presented in a variety of formats including audio and video clips, and written resources. **CONNECT**'s materials are standards-based, strongly rooted in an evidence-based practice framework, and easily adaptable to the needs of multiple audiences and contexts. All are available at no cost.

Collaboration is a driving force throughout the work. **CONNECT** has created an online community to ensure that each aspect of the project is responsive to those working with young children. Module topics were determined by the needs of faculty and other professional development providers, administrators, and families. And modules are being developed with constant feedback, testing, and refining based on people's experiences. The flow of knowledge must be two-way and ongoing— a notion that serves as a core value of our work.

CONNECT
is a partnership
between
FPG Child Development
Institute,
The University of Kansas,
& The University of
Kentucky

We are . . .
Transforming early childhood
professional development.

By providing . . .
Interactive, online modules that can be easily
infused into existing professional development
efforts.

That emphasizes . . .
Exchange and collaboration shaped by the needs of
those in the field.

And results in . . .
An early childhood workforce highly qualified
and highly effective in working with
young children.

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