Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) Updates

Early Learning Demosites Open for Visits!

<u>The early learning demosites</u> are offering in person site visits during the 2023–24 school year. To submit a visit request form, please see the <u>schedule a visit</u> page, and an inclusion specialist will reach out to talk more about what this could look like for your team.

Our early learning demosites highlight the following inclusive practices: inclusive mission and vision, MTSS, the Pyramid Model, differentiated instruction, culturally responsive pedagogy, braided funding, family and community partnerships, flexible service delivery, coordination and collaboration, and how to support CTE students in a preschool setting.

Equal Access to Child Care

Across the country children with disabilities are thriving alongside their nondisabled peers in childcare centers that foster inclusion. A child with a disability must never be turned away from a child care center based on assumptions about the severity of the disability or how much assistance they may need. Inclusive programs fulfill the ADA's promise to ensure equal access to child care programs for all children.

- ECTA Center: Inclusion: Federal Requirements on Inclusion
- Equal Access to Child Care
- ED and HHS Letter on Collaboration on HeadStart and FAPE. Oct. 5, 2022 (PDF)
- UPDATED DEAR COLLEAGUE LETTER on Preschool Least Restrictive Environments
 (January 9, 2017) Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
- Inclusion of Children with Disabilities in Early Childhood Programs (ectacenter.org)

Reminder: ECSE Office Hours

During these office hours, districts are invited to share current barriers and successes related to Part C to B transition, Child Find procedures, data submission, and more. While not required, participants are encouraged to send questions or topics they wish to have addressed during office hours in advance. Register <u>here</u>.

Questions or topics can be submitted to Ryan Guzman.

ECSE Inclusion Champions Resource Share

- Envisioning, Planning, and Implementing Better Systems for Dual Language Learners
- <u>Exclusionary Practices Resource Guide for Early Childhood Coaches</u> (challengingbehavior.org)
- Inclusion of Children with Disabilities: Training Guide



Washington Office of Superintendent of **PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

- The following training guides, originally created by SpecialQuest, are designed to strengthen the inclusion of young children with disabilities and their families in programs serving infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. The training materials can be used in a variety of PD settings. They can also help service providers and parents plan together to increase opportunities for inclusion in their communities. The following four modules each contain a facilitator's guide, training scripts, handouts, and videos:
 - o Including Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities
 - Building Relationships with Families
 - o <u>Collaboration and Teaming</u>
 - Preschool Inclusion Guide