

CONNECT

The Center to Mobilize
Early Childhood Knowledge

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

CONNECT is developing 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 and their families in a variety of learning environments and inclusive settings.

The practice-based 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 evidence, 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 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 . . .

an evidence-based practice decision-making process.

And results in . . .

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

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