Providing Inclusive EC Services through a Variety of Service Delivery Models

• Improve understanding regarding the issues involved in providing inclusive services to preschool-age students with disabilities.
• Reflect on your experience in providing inclusive early childhood services and learn from other programs’ experiences.

Why We Need Inclusive Preschool Programs

All things are difficult before they are easy. - Thomas Fuller

Research and Practice Recommendations

Support Preschool Inclusion

• In 27 years, the practice of providing special education and related services in regular early childhood settings to preschoolers with disabilities has increased only 5.7% and many young children with disabilities continue to be educated in separate settings.
• Families of children with and without disabilities generally have positive views of inclusion.
• Inclusion is not more expensive than having separate programs for children with disabilities.

Research and Practice Recommendations

Support Preschool Inclusion

• Successful inclusion requires intentional and effective collaboration and teaming.
• The individual outcomes of preschool inclusion should include access, membership, participation, friendships, and support.
• Children with disabilities do not need to be “ready” to be included. Programs need to be “ready” to support all children.
IDEA Requires: FAPE for Preschoolers

For preschool children ages 3-5 with disabilities, placement and LRE requirements are the same as for school-aged children (K.A.R. 91-40-21(b)(c)). This means that preschool children with disabilities are to have a continuum of placement options available and have the right to be educated with their peers without disabilities to the maximum extent appropriate. As with school-aged children, the needs of preschoolers are to be considered individually, and the individual needs of the child would determine the most appropriate setting for services to be provided. Most preschoolers benefit from placement in a preschool program with typically developing peers.

IDEA Requires: LRE for Preschool

We Measure What We Value

State Performance Plan - SPP
Annual Performance Report - APR

Kansas EC/LRE Data FY 2012

6A FY 2013-
Percentage of preschool-age children receiving majority of SPE in regular early childhood programs

6B FY 2013-
Percentage of preschool-age children attending a special education class, school or residential facility. (To meet target, USDs must have fewer than 32.21% of their preschool age students in this category)
**Current Early Childhood Educational Environments Data Collection**

- New definitions:
  - Early childhood program. A program that includes at least **50 percent** nondisabled children.
  - Special education program. A program that includes **less than 50 percent** nondisabled children.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What and Where</th>
<th>What Program Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Where the majority of special education and related services are delivered. | Regular early childhood program
- Special education program
- Neither regular or special education program |

**A Continuum of Early Childhood Placement Options**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Type</th>
<th>Placement Options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular early childhood program</td>
<td>Blended Preschool Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special education program</td>
<td>Early Childhood Special Education with Peers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither regular nor special education program</td>
<td>Early Childhood Self-Contained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family child care home</td>
<td>Migrant/Bilingual Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family preschool</td>
<td>Public preschool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start</td>
<td>Special School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother's Day Out/Play Group</td>
<td>Residential facility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At-Risk 4 Program</td>
<td>Where Ever Life is Determined for Child</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PANEL**

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- Carla Heintz, Wichita Public Schools
- Rebekah Helget, Wamego Special Education Cooperative
- Jenny Brase, High Plains Special Education Cooperative
- Shelly Harris, Dana Pfanestiel

**Resources**
Conference Handouts (electronic)


KITs Web Page on Preschool LRE
http://www.kskits.org/ta/preschool_LRE_Resources/index.shtml

- Kansas Community Assets Profile-Revised (KCAP-R) Template
- Early Childhood Program Partner Questionnaire
- Early Childhood LRE Strategic Plan

Questions?

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