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Fall 2019 Newsletter



Early Intervention Training Program Newsletter, Fall 2019

Get to Know the DEC Recommended Practices

This article is the first in a series to provide an overview of the [Division for Early Childhood Recommended Practices \(DEC RPs\)](#) including what they are, why they are important, and where you can find more information on them. To kickoff, we spotlight **Family practices**, including examples of what they look like, don't look like, and additional activities you may explore independently, with families, peers, your supervisor and/or other team members. Be sure to [follow us on Facebook](#) if you want to receive additional resources, encouragement, and opportunities to engage with others on the DEC RPs throughout the year!



What are the Division for Early Childhood Recommended Practices (DEC RPs)?

The [Division for Early Childhood \(DEC\)](#) of the [Council for Exceptional Children \(CEC\)](#) is a well-established professional organization for many early interventionists and early childhood special educators. For many years, DEC has produced [Recommended Practices \(RPs\)](#) to guide the work of administrators, practitioners and service coordinators serving young children with, or at risk for, delays and disabilities and their families. The DEC RPs are also available in Spanish: [Prácticas recomendadas de la DEC](#).

Why are the DEC RPs important?

The RPs are intended to bridge the gap between research and practice by highlighting practices that have been shown to result in better outcomes for children and their families. Updated in 2014, the DEC RPs utilize the best available empirical evidence as well as wisdom and experience from the field. The current DEC RPs provide guidance around the following topic areas: [Leadership, Assessment, Environment, Family, Instruction, Interaction, Teaming and Collaboration and Transition](#).

How can the DEC RPs help with my ability to engage with families?

Engaging families in early intervention services is critical for success. Family engagement is the focus of an interventionist's everyday work as well as a system focus through our [State Systemic Improvement Plan](#). For these reasons, we will first highlight the RPs that focus on family practices. The DEC RPs define Family practices as ongoing activities that:

1. promote the active participation of families in decision-making related to their child (e.g., assessment, planning, intervention);
2. lead to the development of a service plan (e.g., a set of goals for the family and child and the services and supports to achieve those goals); and
3. support families in achieving the goals they hold for their child and the other family members.

The practices are further organized around three themes: [family-centered practices](#) (those that guide how we interact with families), [family capacity-building practices](#) (those that strengthen family knowledge and skills), and [family and professional collaboration practices](#) (those that build and sustain relationships).

This newsletter focuses on the family-centered practices. The intent is to bring awareness to the practices and offer resources and support for implementation

What are the DEC RPs on Family-Centered Practices?

The first four practices in the Family Practice topic area illustrate practices connected to the family-centered theme:

F1. *Practitioners build trusting and respectful partnerships with the family through interactions that are sensitive and responsive to cultural, linguistic, and socioeconomic diversity.*

F2. *Practitioners provide the family with up-to-date, comprehensive and unbiased information in a way that the family can understand and use to make informed choices and decisions.*

F3. *Practitioners are responsive to the family's concerns, priorities, and changing life circumstances.*

F4. *Practitioners and the family work together to create outcomes or goals, develop individualized plans, and implement practices that address the family's priorities and concerns and the child's strengths and needs.*

What do these look like in practice?

The table below provides an example of what the first Family-Centered Practice (F1) looks like and doesn't look like. Additional examples of what the practices look like can be found at [DEC RP with Examples](#). You can also complete [this worksheet](#) to reflect on how they look in your work!

F1. Practitioners build trusting and respectful partnerships with the family through interactions that are sensitive and responsive to cultural, linguistic, and socioeconomic diversity.




Looks Like for F1	Doesn't Look Like for F1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A service coordinator shares information about the family's rights in the format and language with which the family is most comfortable. • An early interventionist asks open-ended questions and makes every effort to learn about family routines and rituals so they can honor and respect them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A service coordinator doesn't take time to raise awareness of how implicit biases can influence relationships with families. • An early interventionist assumes the family's routines are the same as hers and suggests strategies without asking what the family spends time doing.



Where can I learn more about the DEC RPs?

The [DEC website](#) has numerous resources connected to the RPs, including more examples of what they look like in practice. Because of the RPs importance and ability to positively impact outcomes, the Early Intervention Training Program (EITP) has committed to bringing awareness, education, and resources on the RPs to the field through: EITP professional development offerings and system activities (e.g. webinars, State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) activities, etc.), additional newsletter articles, and EITP Facebook posts.

You can also visit the ECTA Center's [Practice Improvement Tools: Using the DEC Recommended Practice](#), especially the [Family](#) topic and tools.

Explore the following activities to extend your learning!

<p>Read</p> 	<p>Family Practitioner Guide 1: Family-centered practices for working with families</p>
<p>Watch</p> 	<p>A short video within Practice Guide 1</p>
<p>Try</p> 	<p>Pick a checklist and see how often you are using family-centered practices</p>
<p>Share</p>	<p>DEC Recommended Practices Help Guide Your Early Intervention Services</p>

	
<p>Use</p> 	<p>Looks Like/Doesn't Look Like Activity</p>

News and Updates

New Online Training: Authentic Assessment in Early Intervention

EITP has launched a new, self-paced online training, **Authentic Assessment in Early Intervention**.

This training provides an overview of authentic assessment in early intervention including what it is and why it is important. Individuals who complete this module will have an understanding who participates in authentic assessment, where it may happen, when it can be done, and within what early intervention processes it can occur. The module includes numerous opportunities for reflection as well as tools to support both the online learner and the administrators/supervisors who support and prepare early intervention practitioners/service coordinators. It is offered through a collaboration with the **Universal Online Part C EI Curriculum**.



You must register and take this training through EITP for EI credit.

Visit our [EITP Online Events calendar](#) to learn more about this and our other online trainings.

Article Published from Christine Spence on EITP Foundational Institute

Recently an [article was published in the International Journal of Early Childhood Special Education \(INT-JECSE\)](#) based on an evaluation conducted by University of Illinois alumni, Dr. Christine Spence, on the *Partnering for Success: Foundational Institute* offered through EITP, which is the state-funded professional development provider for Part C. The evaluation examined facilitators and barriers to changes in participants' practices in working with families in the early intervention system. Additionally, she gathered data on the efficacy of the training components used during the 4-day, multi-component linked series. Participants reported that teaming and collaboration were effective facilitators for change, and administrative issues served as barriers to change. Participants also reported that group discussions and videos were the most effective components that assisted in changing practices. [Full article](#)

Free YEC Journal Article

Using Interagency Collaboration to Support Family-Centered Transition Practices

In each Newsletter, EITP highlights a free article focused on Early Intervention that will be available for PDF download from the Young Exceptional Children journal!



Currently, we are featuring "**Using Interagency Collaboration to Support Family-Centered Transition Practices**" by Diane Branson and Ann Bingham from *Young Exceptional Children*, v12, no.3, June 2009.

Service Coordinator Corner

The "Service Coordination Corner" spotlights the important work of service coordinators within the Illinois EI System.

What do Family-Centered Practices look like for Service Coordinators? worksheet allows you to reflect on your strengths and any areas you need support regarding the DEC RPs on family-centered practices.

Tip: Program Managers or local SC Trainers may consider using *this activity* with SCs within a staff meeting. SCs may also use *this* with a family, peer or fellow team member to get some feedback on how they are doing.

IL Service Coordination Community of Practice (CoP) Participant Evaluation– Our IL SC CoP and CFC SC Trainer Forum have been operating since the Spring/Summer of 2017. EITP recently conducted an evaluation of these two CoPs in order to better understand what participants value and have gained. Feedback has analyzed, and results will be shared at the DEC International Conference in October 2019. **Notably, more than half of the participants report the following:**

- gaining new knowledge & skills
- identifying tools & strategies to use,
- applying something new to their work
- using resources gained
- changing how they think about or approach their work
- helping them to be effective in local initiatives

Learn more about joining the CoPs

Joint Service Coordination Position Statement – DEC and the Infant Toddler Coordinator Association (ITCA) are preparing a joint position statement on Service Coordination. EITP's Maria Kastanis and Sarah Nichols along with Part C Coordinators, active DEC SC CoP members, and representatives from DEC Family Council and Zero to Three will be meeting once a month for the next year to develop a position statement that brings awareness and attention to the important role

and expertise that SCs bring to EI teams.

Illinois Service Coordination Stakeholder Survey – The IL SC Stakeholder Group will share a summary of findings with the field as soon as it is available. The data collected will be used to make informed decisions and recommendations for preparing, empowering and retaining SCs in IL EI.

Time Management and Self-Care were discussed in recent IL SC CoP and CFC SC Trainer Forum meetings. We invite you to keep these conversations going by adding your additional tips and suggestions for time management and self-care.

- **Resources from the IL SC CoP members**, such as making time in their schedule to take a break after meetings and things they do in their car as they travel (e.g. podcasts, breathing techniques, etc.).
- **Resources from the CFC SC Trainer Forum** that promote self-care for themselves and SCs they support.

Join the Conversation!

The Illinois Service Coordination Community of Practice (IL SC CoP) and CFC SC Trainer Forum continue to meet quarterly and discussions are driven by group members. **If you want more information about either of these groups please contact Sarah Nichols.**

SSIP Updates

State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) First Quarter Update

As the implementation phase continues, we are pleased to see positive changes occurring. Our primary focus is now on our family engagement improvement strategy. Leadership teams continue to plan and support professional development offerings in their area based on local needs. In July, we presented information about our work with the Child Outcomes Summary Process to national stakeholders at the Office of Special Education Programs Leadership Conference. We also participated in a technical assistance (TA) opportunity with two national TA centers to help us develop and refine an evaluation tool for our family engagement practices. In the coming months, we will continue to focus on capacity building around family engagement, development and refinement of a practice fidelity tool, continued refinement of the evaluation plan, and planning for scale up and sustainability. We welcome everyone's input so if you have any comments, please **email Chelsea Guillen.**

Upcoming Events





To view upcoming events sponsored by EITP, please visit <https://go.illinois.edu/EITPEvents>.

To view online trainings sponsored by EITP, please visit

<https://go.illinois.edu/EITPonline>.

To view upcoming events sponsored by other entities (non-EITP events) that are eligible for EI credit, please visit the Non-EITP Events Calendar (<https://eitp.education.illinois.edu/nonEITPevents.html>).

Date	Event and Registration Link	Location
10/1/19	EITP Virtual Office Hours for new EI providers and personnel	Online - Zoom Meeting Room
10/11-10/12/19	 The PLAY Project's Two-Day Autism Intensive Workshop *Both days required*	O'Fallon
10/16/19	Stepping Out: Family Outings with Young Children with Autism	Online - Live webinar (MFLN)
10/16/19	Online System Overview Follow-Up Session	West Peoria
10/22/19	Mindfulness, Breath and Yoga In Your Early Intervention Practice: Practical Strategies for the EI Provider	Palos Hills
10/23/19	Bilingual Language Proficiency Exams	Palos Hills
10/25/19	Painting A Picture: Writing Effective Early Intervention Reports	Champaign
10/28/19	Keys to Successfully Conducting Challenging Conversations	Springfield
10/29/19	Supporting Families During the Early Childhood Years: An Overview of the Take Root and Sprout Parenting Programs	Online - Live webinar (MFLN)
11/1/19	 Hawaii Early Learning Profile(HELP) - Overview	Tinley Park
11/5/19	EITP Virtual Office Hours for new EI providers and personnel	Online - Zoom Meeting Room
11/8/19	Online System Overview Follow-Up Session	Springfield
11/14/19	Online System Overview Follow-Up Session	Naperville
11/14/19	Engaged & Extraordinary: Supporting Young Children with Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities/Kids Serve Too!	Online - Live webinar (MFLN)
12/3/19	EITP Virtual Office Hours for new EI providers and personnel	Online - Zoom Meeting

		Room
12/4/19	Welcome to the Group: Inclusion for Young Children with Autism	Online - Live webinar (MFLN)



indicates events that are approved by **Gateways** (the Illinois professional development system for child care professionals).

*For all multiple day events, participants must register before Day 1 and attend all days. Registration will be closed after Day 1 of that event. To register for the event, click on the full title of the event.

READ MORE ABOUT



Central Billing Office | Monitoring | EI Central Directory

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