

Professional Development Activity

Looking at the Data on Inclusion



Purpose

- To share key research points related to early childhood inclusion
- To facilitate discussion among participants on their reactions to these research points and application to their work

Audience

- Early childhood practitioners and specialists
- Early childhood administrators
- Family members and family advocacy groups
- College or university students

Materials List

1. *Research Synthesis Points on Early Childhood Inclusion* document (found at <http://npdci.fpg.unc.edu>)
2. Colored slips of paper

Preparation

- Create a slip of paper with one synthesis point printed on it for each participant.
- You will need 9 different colors to represent the 9 synthesis points (1 color for each point).
- If you have more than 9 participants, then you will need multiple copies
- For example, with 27 participants, you would print three copies of each of the research synthesis points, using a different color for each (9 colors total). Make three copies of point one on pink, three copies of point two on blue, etc., until all points are copied and all participants will have a slip.
- Alternatively, make all copies on white paper and use colored dots to distinguish each unique research synthesis point.

Directions for the Facilitator

1. Give each participant a slip of paper. Ask each person to take a moment to read their slip.
2. Ask the participants to get out of their chairs so they can pair up with someone in the room who has a different colored slip of paper.
3. Ask each pair to discuss the information on their slips and to consider the implications of that research synthesis point for their work with children and families. This should take about 4 minutes.
4. Ask participants to find a new partner who has a different colored slip of paper. Continue to do this 2 more times (about 4 minutes per round).
5. Ask all participants to return to their chairs.
6. Ask for volunteers to share reactions to the research synthesis points. Encourage them to mention anything in these points that was surprising or unexpected.
7. Summarize some of the themes in the participants' comments. This can be done aloud or by capturing key concepts on a flip chart or overhead.
8. Point out that the *Research Synthesis Points on Early Childhood Inclusion* document is available to download at the NPDCI website <http://npdci.fpg.unc.edu>

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NPDCI works with states to create a system of high quality, cross-agency professional development for early childhood personnel to support inclusion. NPDCI is a project of the FPG Child Development Institute at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is funded by the US Office of Special Education Programs. Visit NPDCI at http://_aUTZfpg.unc.edu