

ECTA Center

The Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center

The Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center is a national center funded by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) to support early intervention and preschool special education programs and practitioners. The ECTA Center assists states in building effective, efficient systems; scaling up and sustaining effective services; and, promoting research-based interventions for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers with disabilities and their families. The Center is built upon the foundation of several successful OSEP-funded TA centers including NECTAC, TACSEI, CELL, and ECO.

Over the course of 5-years, the ECTA Center will develop useful guidance and products to support early intervention and preschool programs and provide a continuum of TA to improve the quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of programs that support the use of effective services and evidence-based interventions.

National Guidance and Products:

- **System Framework for Part C and Section 619 programs.** The Center is working with partner states and national experts to develop a service system framework for high-quality, effective and efficient early childhood and early intervention service systems. The components and quality indicators within the service system framework will be defined to support the implementation of effective practices at the local level.
- **DEC Recommended Practices.** The Center is partnering with the Division for Early Childhood (DEC) of the Council for Exceptional Children to revise the research-based, field-validated *DEC Recommended Practices*. Based on the revised DEC Recommended Practices, the Center will develop a variety of products and tools to support the field in implementing the practices.
- **Implementation Process.** The Center is developing guidance materials for state and local programs that identify the essential features and implementation processes critical to implementing, scaling up, and sustaining effective services and interventions. These guidance materials will be shared with all states and will be incorporated into the Center TA practices.

Continuum of TA:

- The Center provides three levels of technical assistance to states and local programs: general/informational technical assistance; specific targeted assistance; and, intensive assistance over time to:
 - Strengthen State Part C and Section 619 service systems,
 - Increase the implementation of effective practices,
 - Improve Part C and Section 619 monitoring and accountability,
 - Increase collaboration across early childhood systems,
 - Enhance Child and Family Outcome measurement, and, ultimately
 - Improve results for children and families participating in Part C and Section 619 programs.
- The Center's TA will include:
 - Online resources, training modules, videos via the Center web site
 - Targeted TA to meet individual state, local, or multi-site needs
 - National conferences, webinars and learning communities
 - Intensive TA, through an application process, for states that would like to work intensively with the center on building systems and implementing and scaling up recommended practices.

Always online at <http://www.ectacenter.org>

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