

Quick Guide: DEC Recommend Practices and ECSE

As an early childhood special educator, you play an essential role in supporting each child's learning, development, and sense of belonging.

The **DEC Recommended Practices (RPs)** provide practical evidence-informed strategies to strengthen your work with children. The Division for Early Childhood (DEC) is an international membership organization for those who work with, or on behalf of, young children with or at-risk of developmental delays and disabilities and their families.

Scan this code to read the RPs: <https://ectacenter.org/decrp/decrp.asp>



DEC RP Topics



ASSESSMENT

Learn about child strengths, needs, interests, and progress.



ENVIRONMENT

Create spaces, materials, and routines that support participation.



FAMILY

Honor family culture, priorities, routines, and choices.



INSTRUCTION

Learn during everyday activities and routines.



INTERACTION

Build warm, responsive relationships that support learning.



LEADERSHIP

Share decision-making, advocate, and support positive outcomes.



TEAMING AND COLLABORATION

Working together at home, school, child care, and with therapists.



TRANSITION

Change from early intervention to preschool, or preschool to kindergarten.

RP Help You:

- **Strengthen instructional decisions** by using evidence-informed strategies tailored to each child's developmental needs.
- **Create inclusive environments** that support full participation in daily routines and learning activities.
- **Partner with families and team members** to ensure consistent, coordinated services and supports across settings.
- **Promote children's development and learning** through responsive, intentional interactions.



EXAMPLE RP

INS1. Practitioners use systematic instructional strategies with fidelity to teach skills and to promote child engagement and learning.

IN PRACTICE

An early childhood special educator, early care and education provider, and a parent work together to develop a checklist of the steps involved in using the most-to-least prompting procedure to help the child learn to feed herself with a spoon.

*Scan this code to read the **Systematic Instruction** practice guide and more:*



<https://ectacenter.org/decrp/type-pgpractitioner.asp>

PERFORMANCE CHECKLISTS

These checklists can be used as self-evaluation tools for practitioners and leaders to increase understanding and use of RPs, but they are not intended for monitoring practitioner performance.

*Scan this code to read the **Systematic Instruction** checklist and more:*

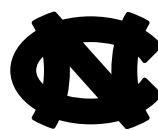


<https://ectacenter.org/decrp/type-checklists.asp>

ecta Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center

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