



Early Literacy Community of Practice

The Center for Early Literacy Learning (CELL) is assisting West Virginia in the design, implementation and evaluation of an *Early Literacy Community of Practice* to promote the use of evidenced based early literacy practices with fidelity by professionals serving young children, age birth to three.

Why a Community of Practice?

The Community of Practice provides a framework for individuals from across the state and from differing service delivery systems to share information and knowledge and to reflect upon their own practice within home visiting and center based infant/toddler programs.

What Happens in a Community of Practice?

Members of the Community of Practice learn together through topical webinars and readings, share knowledge and experiences related to each practice, reflect on their own knowledge and skills, support each other in making changes to practice and celebrate accomplishments together.

Each *Early Literacy Community of Practice* will be conducted as a monthly webinar series over the course of six months. The first 30 minutes of the webinar is devoted to infant and toddler providers who want to improve their skills in early literacy, the last 30 minutes is devoted to the individuals who are in training to become CELL Master Cadre and Coaches.

How do I become a member?

Individuals interested in joining the *Early Literacy Community of Practice* must attend the “Evidenced Based Practices for Promoting the Literacy Development of Infants and Toddlers” training prior to requesting to join the *Early Literacy Community of Practice*. The training and a new *Early Literacy Community of Practice* will be offered every six months in various regions across the state.

How do I become a Master Cadre or Coach?

Individuals interested in becoming a Master Cadre or Coach must complete the CELL Master Cadre Application and be selected by the WV CELL State Leadership Team. Selected Master Cadre and Coaches must attend the “Evidenced Based Practices for Promoting the Literacy Development of Infants and Toddlers” and “Adaptations” trainings. Master Cadre members must also complete the following assignments:

Assignments

1) Webinar Series

- Master Cadre and Coaches will attend all six webinars for full 60 minutes.

- Active participation during the webinar is critical for skill development and reflection.
- Webinars will focus on CELL evidenced based practices and implementation of those practices within home and community environments.

Webinars provide ongoing follow up and support increased fidelity of practices.

2) Research Papers

- One or two research papers will be assigned for review and discussion.
- Each participant will also select a research paper from the CELL website for review and discussion of three key points that support the evidenced based practice.

This assignment is to create awareness and deeper understanding of research that supports evidence-based practice.

3) Participatory Adult Learning Strategy (PALS)

- A modified PALS Matrix will be used for journaling strategies for implementation.
- During monthly webinars participants will share with peers these strategies and ideas for sharing early literacy evidenced based practices in a natural way with families or within classroom settings.
- Each month we will focus on a different component of the CELL Early Literacy Learning Model.

This assignment provides intentional strategies for implementing CELL with families.

4) CELL Early Literacy Learning Model Practices

- Participants will receive 2-3 additional practices per month. They will choose one or two to implement over the course of a month in their role as a home visitor or classroom teacher.
- Participants will be guided to CELL Podcasts that support the additional practice for review and planning for implementation.
- Participants will write down their responses to the practice using the **Evaluation Questions** and then complete the **Reflection Checklist**.
- Participants will submit their responses to the CELL Coordinator the week of the webinar.
- Volunteers will be asked to share their feedback/experiences from the additional practices.

Additional practices provide practical experience for the home visitor or classroom teacher, in which a deeper understanding is established.

5) Training Implementation

- Master Cadre and Coaches will discuss strategies for training, needs, successes, challenges, questions, etc.

6) TACSEI/CELL Master Cadre and Coaches

- TACSEI/CELL Master Cadre and Coaches will work closely with the WV State Leadership Team to design, implement and evaluate a coordinated professional development system that promotes the implementation with fidelity of the CELL Evidenced Based Practices within the Pyramid Model.