



## Technical Assistance Center on Social Emotional Intervention

for Young Children

### **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION PARTNERSHIPS**

The Center is collaborating with national membership associations to extend the impact of its work on young children's social/emotional development and challenging behavior by: 1) ensuring the efficacy and social validity of its work, 2) increasing the likelihood of implementation of evidence-based practices at the local level, and 3) promoting systems change nation wide. The Center has Primary Partner Associations who are: National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE), Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children (DEC), National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD), National Head Start Association (NHSA), the IDEA Infant and Toddler Coordinators Association (ITCA), the IDEA 619 Consortium and Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights (PACER) as well as numerous Associate Partner Associations.

#### **Key Objectives of the Partnerships**

- ✓ To advance a “unified message” of the importance of evidence-based practices in the field by those who provide leadership and trusted guidance—the national associations. To increase the Center’s ability to support systems change at the state and local level through a unified message about evidence-based practices that reaches all constituents (parents, mental health professionals, personnel trainers in the community college and other higher education arenas, state decision makers, special education consultants, etc.) with which early childhood programs and families interact.

*Example:* conferences and products co-sponsored by the associations resulting in early childhood, mental health professionals and community college trainers receiving the same information about what works so that they implement it in local programs collaboratively rather than functioning under disparate ideas about what works

- ✓ To extend the social validity (believability and usefulness) of the Center’s message and findings through the associations to which stakeholders belong.

*Example:* associations sharing information about Center activities and materials through their dissemination vehicles

- ✓ To assist the associations in institutionalizing evidence-based practices in their appropriate on-going activities so that the life of the findings and products of the Center outlast and extend the federal funding.

*Example:* assisting in the development of association web site and print materials and training venues that showcase evidence-based information

- ✓ To create a loop of on-going information between the Center and stakeholders to guide the Center’s work in order to target key issues, ensure that the Center is responsive over the five years to changing “real world” needs in the field and to create an on-going dialogue of evidence-based practice issues.

*Example:* focus groups at the association conferences and web based interactive Q & A sessions with association members

- ✓ To capitalize on cost-effective, existing association avenues to reach hundreds of thousands of direct service providers, families, administrators and personnel trainers.

*Example:* the Center prepares and partners distribute an electronic fact sheet about strategies to use at home to over 250,000 families, in English and Spanish

## **Primary Partners**

The Primary Partners were selected because they:

- ✓ represent national membership organizations who reach hundreds of thousands of professionals and consumers through their memberships and on-going information venues
- ✓ have been recognized leaders in the field for decades
- ✓ issue program and personnel /staff development guidelines and /or standards
- ✓ represent the largest, most broad-based membership constituencies in their fields
- ✓ they have extensive networks with other organizations.

## **Associate Partners**

The Center collaborates with Associate Partners that represent national specific voices important to the Center's responsiveness and impact. These associations represent important national, respected groups, albeit, not necessarily early childhood organizations. Associate Partners currently include:

- American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)
- American Federation of Teachers (AFT)
- American Institutes for Research (AIR)
- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)
- Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI)
- Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO)
- Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)
- Council of Administrators of Special Education
- Docs for Tots
- Education Commission of States (ECS)
- Federal Resource Centers (FRC)
- Mid-South Regional Resource Center (MSRRC)
- Mountain Plains Regional Resource Center (MPRRC)
- National Association of EC Specialists in State Departments of Education (NAECS-SDE)
- National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP)
- National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP)
- National Association of School Psychologists (NASP)
- National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE)
- National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
- National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP)
- National Center for Early Development and Learning (NCEDL)
- National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL)
- National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities (NICHCY)
- National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (NECTAC)
- National Governors' Association Center for Best Practices (NGA)
- North Central Regional Resource Center (NCRRC)
- Northeast Regional Resource Center (NERRC)
- Parents Anonymous Inc.
- Society for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics (SDBP)
- Southeast Regional Resource Center (SERRC)
- The Arc of the United States
- Western Regional Resource Center (WRRC)
- Zero to Three

Current resources do not allow for extensive, individualized support to these numerous groups; however, the Center can obtain feedback from these stakeholders regarding cultural appropriateness of materials, family-centered approaches, and issues related to child welfare and mental health agencies. The Center in turn, provides materials to the associations that they can tailor to their members' needs and use in their print products and on their web sites. Again, not only is the Center's message and materials enhanced by these partnerships, but the awareness of evidence-based practices is greatly increased beyond what the Center could do alone.