

# CONNECT

The Center to Mobilize  
Early Childhood Knowledge

<http://community.fpg.unc.edu/connect>

**CONNECT** is working with the early childhood community to create web-based, instructional resources for faculty and other professional development providers that focus on and respond to challenges faced each day by those working with young children with disabilities and their families.

The modules are designed to build early childhood practitioners' abilities to make evidence-based decisions. They emphasize a decision-making process, realistic problems to solve, the importance of integrating multiple perspectives and sources of knowledge, the relevance and quality of content, and feedback. Each module includes five components

1. **Dilemmas.** Vignettes reflecting real life challenges.
2. **Reflection.** Questions that encourage learners to focus on specific practices.
3. **Content Information.** A collection of the best available research, standards, guidelines, policies, and perspectives.
4. **Evidence-based Decision-Making and Practices.** Activities and tools to provide learners opportunities to integrate information from various sources related to a practice dilemma, appraise that information in light of the unique context, and make and implement a balanced decision related to the practice dilemma.
5. **Feedback/Assessment.** Tools to provide learners with feedback on their knowledge, skills, attitudes, and implementation.

Information is presented in a variety of formats including audio and video clips, and written resources. **CONNECT**'s materials are standards-based, strongly rooted in an evidence-based practice framework, and easily adaptable to the needs of multiple audiences and contexts. All are available at no cost.

Collaboration is a driving force throughout the work. **CONNECT** has created an online community to ensure that each aspect of the project is responsive to those working with young children. Module topics were determined by the needs of faculty and other professional development providers, administrators, and families. And modules are being developed with constant feedback, testing, and refining based on people's experiences. The flow of knowledge must be two-way and ongoing— a notion that serves as a core value of our work.

**CONNECT**  
is a partnership  
between  
FPG Child Development  
Institute,  
The University of Kansas,  
& The University of  
Kentucky

**We are . . .**  
Transforming early childhood  
professional development.

**By providing . . .**  
Interactive, online modules that can be easily  
infused into existing professional development  
efforts.

**That emphasizes . . .**  
Exchange and collaboration shaped by the needs of  
those in the field.

**And results in . . .**  
An early childhood workforce highly qualified  
and highly effective in working with  
young children.

## Principal Investigator

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