

# Introduction to DEC Recommended Practices: A Comprehensive Guide for Practical Application in Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education

Event Name/Host Agency

Date

Name, Special Education Lead

California Preschool Instructional Network, Region #

# Development of the DEC Recommended Practices

- Process: Review of scientific literature
  - Focus Groups of Researchers and Stakeholders
- Fundamental value of cultural/linguistic sensitivity embedded through strands
- Age Groupings 0 – 5 yrs (not 0-3, 3-5)
  - Examples illustrate practice for age groupings

# DEC Values and Beliefs

- Respect for All Children and Families
- High Quality, Comprehensive, Coordinated and Family-Centered Services and Supports
- Rights of all Children to Participate Actively and Meaningfully within Their Families and Communities
- Recommended Practices for ALL Children

# Direct Service Strands

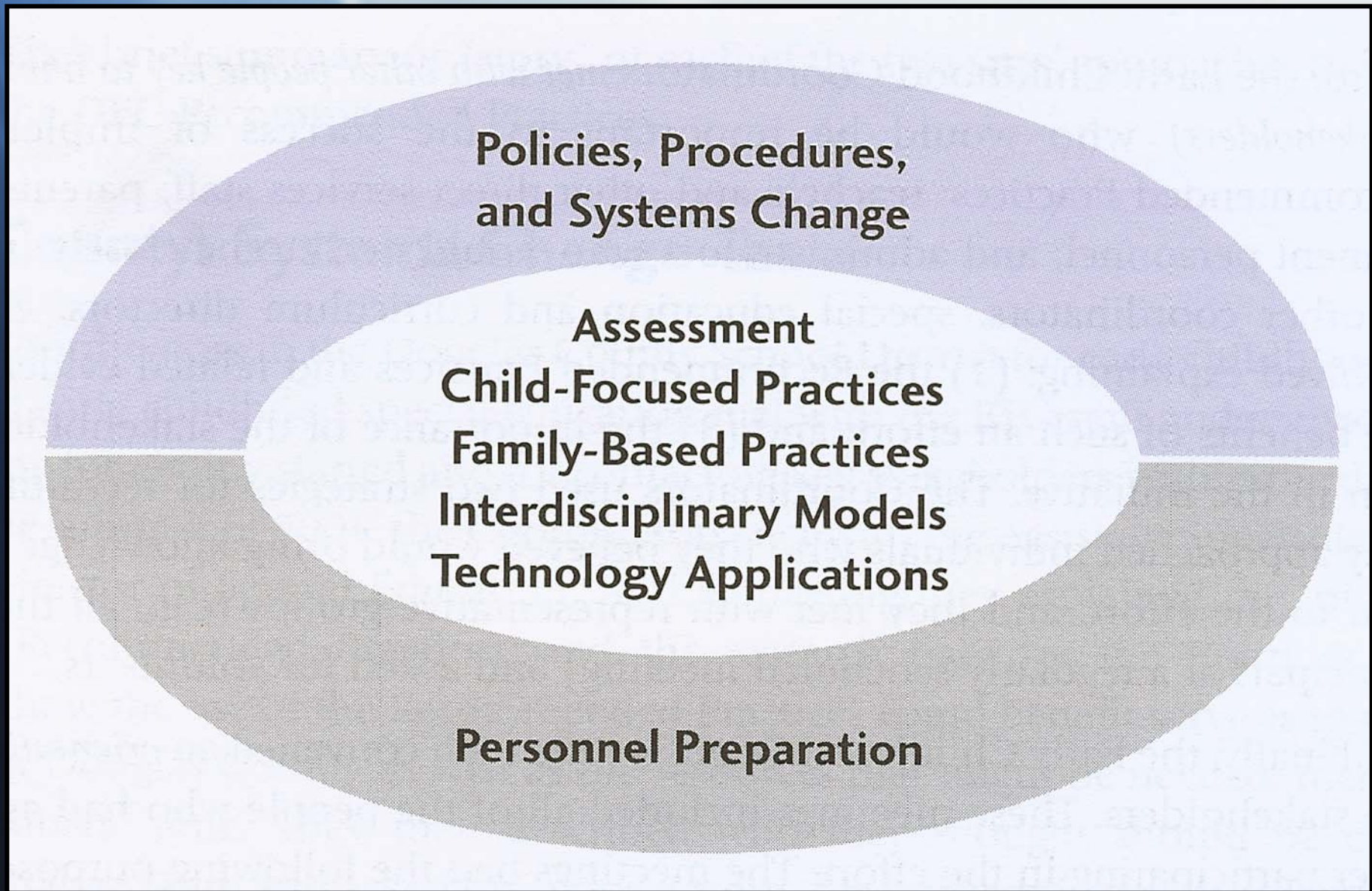
- Assessment
- Child-Focused Practices
- Family-Based Practices
- Interdisciplinary Models
- Technology Applications



# Indirect Supports

- Policies, Procedures, System Change
- Personnel Preparation
  - (DEC, NAEYC, ATE)
  - Separate Publication

# Recommended Practices: Indirect and Direct Supports





# Format of the 7 Strands:

- Introduction
- Guiding Principles
- Recommended Practices
  - Indicators
    - Examples
      - Preschool
      - Infant/Toddler
- Glossary
- Resources

# Teach and Learn Time!

- Create teams:
  - 5 Direct Service Strands: 5 Groups
- Directions:
  - Silently read [Introduction](#) and [Guiding Principles](#)
  - Discuss as a group
  - Team decides how to TEACH your Strand
  - Make a Poster to enhance your 5 minute presentation



# Seven Strands of Recommended Practices

- Direct Services (5)
  - Assessment
  - Child-Focused Practices
  - Family-Based Practices
  - Interdisciplinary Models
  - Technology Applications
- Indirect Supports (2)
  - Policies, Procedures, and Systems Change
  - Personnel Preparation

# Handbook: Part III

- Using the DEC Recommended Practices
  - Case studies
- 2 Checklists
  - Administrator's Essentials: Creating Policies and Procedures That Support Recommended Practices in EI/ECSE
  - Parent Checklist

# Activity: Using the DEC Workbook

- Format:
  - Workbook Forms by Strands, Page 1.
  - Review a strand, find the Indicators



# Scoring

- Scoring by Indicators
  - 2 = Fully Implemented
  - 1 = Partially Implemented
  - 0 = Not Implemented
- Summarize Practices for Improvement
- Derive Percentages
- Space for Pre- and Post- Assessment

# Summary and Planning Forms - Page 74

- Strand Summary Form
  - Practices identified for improvement
- Graph for Percentage Scores Across Strands
- Action Planning Form
  - Practices to be addressed
    - Action Steps
    - Timelines and Responsible Persons
    - Resources and Supports Needed
    - Indicators of Success
    - Status/Completion

# Using the DEC Workbook

- Workbook Forms by Activities - Pg. 47
  - Setting Goals for Children
  - Monitoring Children's Progress Towards Their Goals
  - Supporting Children's Communication
  - Preventing and Addressing Challenging Behavior
  - Inclusion
  - Diversity



# How Can You Use these Guides?

- For brainstorm...
  - Shared understanding of needs and strengths
  - Creating Program/Mission and Vision Statements
  - Identifying Program Improvement Goals
  - Action Planning for ongoing...
    - Staff development
    - Program development
- For prioritizing efforts...
  - Legal Compliance
  - What can make the most impact?
  - What resources are available?
  - What is realistic?

# DEC Resources and Products

## Website:

- Articles on the research base of project
- Articles reviewed for the document

## Journals/Current Publications:

- Young Exceptional Children
- Young Children
- Teaching Exceptional Children

# DEC Resources and Products

- Recommended Practices Book
- Program Assessment/Workbook
- Videotape of Child-Focused Practices
- Recommended Practices in Personnel Preparation
- Young Exceptional Children Monographs
  - Series (1-6)



# Creating New Activity Forms

- Identify a topic you want to address
- Reorganize Indicators
- Create your own forms

*In conclusion...*

*“To work in the world lovingly  
means that we are defining  
what we will be for,  
rather than reacting  
to what we are against.”*

*Christina Baldwin*