Division for Early Childhood (of the Council for Exceptional Children)

Presentation to: National Research Council Committee on Developmental Outcomes and Assessments for Young Children

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DEC Mission

The Division for Early Childhood promotes polices and advances evidence-based practices that support families and enhance the optimal development of
young children who have or are at risk for developmental delays and disabilities.

Forum Questions Addressed

- Addresses the question of Special Populations (Question 5) with Children with disabilities/delays
- Information we have developed indirectly addresses all the Forum questions but within this population.

DEC Positions on Assessment

- DEC Recommended Practices
  - Assessment Chapter
  - Chaired by Neisworth & Bagnato
- Promoting Positive Outcomes for Children with Disabilities: Recommendations for Curriculum, Assessment, and Program Evaluation
  - Companion to NAEYC and NAECS/SDE Joint Position Statement

DEC Recommended Assessment Practices: Guiding Principles

- Parents and family members must play a vital and indispensable role
- Assessment methods and materials must accommodate children's developmental and disability-specific characteristics.

DEC Recommended Assessment Practices: Guiding Principles

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- Professional and family collaboration
- Individualized and appropriate to child and family
- Provides useful information
- Information is shared in respectful and useful ways
- Meets legal and procedural requirements

Promoting Positive Outcomes for Children with Disabilities: Recommendations for Curriculum, Assessment, and Program Evaluation

- Each section has some focus on assessment.
- Assessment section most relevant to this NRC Committee
- Each section
  - key recommendations
  - rationale for the recommendations
  - specific indicators of effectiveness
  - frequently asked questions

DEC Promoting Positive Outcomes: Key Assessment Recommendations

- Assessment practices should be integrated and individualized in order to:
  - answer the questions posed by the assessment team (including family members)
  - integrate the child's everyday routines, interests, materials, caregivers and play partners within the assessment process
  - develop a system for shared partnerships with professionals and families for the communication and collection of ongoing information valuable for teaching and learning

DEC Promoting Positive Outcomes: Key Assessment Recommendations

- Implement a child- and family-centered, team-based, and ecologically valid assessment process
- Process should address each child's unique strengths and needs through authentic, developmentally appropriate, culturally and linguistically responsive, multidimensional assessment methods
- Methods matched to the assessment purpose, linked to curriculum and intervention, and supported by professional development

Thank you!

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