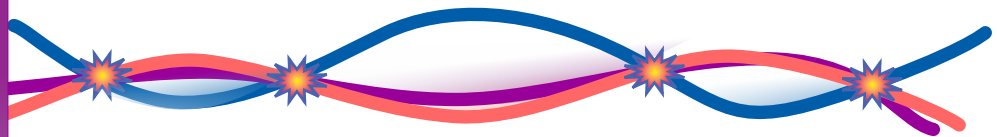


# connect

The Center to Mobilize  
Early Childhood Knowledge



## We are . . .

Transforming early childhood professional development.

## By providing . . .

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

## That emphasizes . . .

Online exchange and collaboration shaped by the needs of those in the field.

## And results in . . .

An early childhood workforce that is both highly qualified and highly effective in working with young children.

**CONNECT:** The Center to Mobilize Early Childhood Knowledge is working with the early childhood community to create a series of 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.** Activities and questions that encourage learners to reflect on their current knowledge and attitudes.
3. **Content Information.** A collection of the best available research, principles, standards, guidelines, policies, and perspectives.
4. **Evidence-based Decision-Making and Practices.** Activities and tools that provide learners with 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, interactive exercises, 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 funded by a \$2.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs.

## CONNECT

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

## Principal Investigator

Pamela Winton, FPG

## Co-Principal Investigators

Virginia Buysse, FPG  
Beth Rous, University of Kentucky  
Ann Turnbull, University of Kansas



[www.fpg.unc.edu/~connect](http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~connect)



UNC

FPG CHILD DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

[WWW.FPG.UNC.EDU](http://WWW.FPG.UNC.EDU)

