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Implementation of Curriculum with Fidelity

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Presenters:
Allison Dean, NCECDTL
C. Joe Preece, NCECDTL

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Session Objectives

At the end of this presentation, you should be able to:


Participants will:

- Increase their understanding of curriculum fidelity
- Explore the research base around why curriculum fidelity is important
- Identify strategies around how a program can ensure that they are implementing their research based curriculum with fidelity.

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What Is Curriculum Fidelity?



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Before we discuss fidelity...

Where are you on the "curriculum continuum"?

A written plan

Everything that happens...

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What Is Curriculum Fidelity?

The extent to which a curriculum, including its content and process is implemented as designed by the developers

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Why is curriculum fidelity important?

Curriculum fidelity is critical to ensuring that the interactions and activities that make up a curriculum result in positive child outcomes and the achievement of school readiness goals.

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Framework for Effective Everyday Practice

- Providing engaging interactions with children
- Choosing research-based curricula and teaching practices
- Using ongoing assessment of children's skills
- Individualizing teaching and learning

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Why is curriculum fidelity important?

- It can give us information about how to improve teaching practices to ensure that all children progress as planned
- It can help home visitors think through which activities or strategies they will model for families
- It can also aid in problem solving among teaching teams to strengthen curriculum implementation

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What do the Head Start Program Performance Standards say about curriculum fidelity?

§1302.32 Curricula.

(a) Curricula.

(2) A program must support staff to effectively implement curricula and at a minimum monitor curriculum implementation and fidelity, and provide support, feedback, and supervision for continuous improvement of its implementation through the system of training and professional development.

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Features Critical to Successful Implementation of Curriculum

- I. Fidelity of implementation
- II. Professional development support
- III. Ongoing assessment of child learning

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Fidelity of Implementation

- 1. Global fidelity
- 2. Individual lesson or activity fidelity

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1. Global fidelity provides information on how consistently and regularly staff implement the key elements of a curriculum over time.



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What might you see?

Programs using regular observations to identify things like:

- Do staff consistently follow key principles and teaching practices of the curriculum?
- How familiar are staff with activities and teaching practices?

Programs visit classrooms on a regular basis to coach and provide performance-based data to teachers to improve teaching practices through a reflective cycle such as Practice-based coaching.




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What might you see?

Programs using survey or other opportunities for teachers to give feedback like:

- Their challenges/successes in curriculum implementation, or
- How well the curriculum meets the needs of children and families in the program




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What might you see?


- Staff in regularly scheduled planning time
- Staff organizing materials and the learning environment to support curriculum activities
- Staff planning curriculum modifications to support access to learning activities for children with disabilities or in response to the communities they serve




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 2. Individual lesson or activity fidelity provides in-the-moment information about the way a curriculum activity is implemented in a learning setting







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 What might you see?

- Staff focused on the specific goals identified in the lesson plans
- Staff using all the recommended materials
- Staff differentiating instruction and learning goals based on formative assessment
- Children engaged in child-guided experiences based on the curriculum's guidance for these experiences







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 Professional Development


- Initial training or course in curricula
 - Practice-based with modeling
- Ongoing coaching or mentoring
- Opportunities for self- and peer-reflection




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 What might you see?

- The program provides teachers with regular, individualized, consultation and coaching
- The program has procedures for providing teachers with feedback on a regular basis
- Feedback is specific and focused on curriculum implementation







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 Why is professional development important?


- Individualized consultation and regular feedback were most effective in improving preschool teachers' use of instructional strategies (Pianta et al., 2008).
- The ongoing support is essential to prevent "drift" or a teacher or program gradually shifting away from implementation fidelity




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 Ongoing Assessment of Learning


- How Well Is the Curriculum Working for the Children?
 - Does the program have an assessment system for documenting children's learning over time?
 - How is the curriculum supporting children's growth and development?



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 What might you see?

- Staff **regularly** documenting children's **knowledge** and **skills** during activities and routines
- Staff making appropriate adaptations and modifications for children with special needs
- Staff using appropriate strategies to support language development for children who are dual language learners




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 Why is ongoing assessment of child learning important?

- So that teachers can assess whether or not children are learning and make adjustments
- Evidence of benefits to children can support teachers' belief in the value of a curricular approach and their ability to implement the curriculum well.



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 Application Exercise

Read the scenario regarding curriculum fidelity monitoring findings

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How can a program optimize curriculum fidelity?




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Programs can...

- Hire staff with training and education in early childhood (B-5) curriculum and instruction
- Train all education staff to implement the curriculum as intended, using fidelity tools that may be provided by the publisher




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Programs can...

- Ensure time and supports, including materials, for proper implementation.
- Employ staff who have the knowledge and capacity to observe and support curriculum fidelity to both content and process.




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 Programs Can...


- Provide ongoing professional development on curriculum implementation.
- Make sure they are using the most recent version of the curriculum.
- Use data related to curriculum fidelity for continuous program improvement.



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QUESTIONS




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 Resources

- Preschool Curriculum Consumer Report
<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/teaching/practice/docs/curriculum-consumer-report.pdf>
- Choosing a Preschool Curriculum
<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/teaching/practice/curricula/docs/curriculum-choosing.pdf>
- Infant Toddler Curriculum
<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/ehsnrc/cde/curriculum/curriculum.html>

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For more information, please
contact us:
ecdtl@ecetta.info
or
1-844-261-3752



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