

Early Childhood Series

Early childhood classrooms are filled with tremendous learner variability. Children enter school with different experiences, communication styles, strengths, interests, developmental levels, and support needs. This professional learning series equips educators with practical strategies for supporting a wide range of early learners while creating environments where all children can access, participate, and thrive.



Session 1: Beginning with Beliefs: Building Inclusive Foundations for Early Learners

The first session establishes a shared understanding of inclusion and explores the beliefs that influence our daily practices and decisions. Participants will examine assumptions about children, disability, behavior, and readiness while considering how educator mindsets shape classroom experiences. Through reflection and discussion, participants will build an assets-based framework that recognizes strengths and potential in every learner.

Session 2: Understanding Young Children: Development, Behavior, and Learner Variability

Young children communicate, learn, and regulate in many different ways. This session examines child development and learner variability through a practical lens while exploring behavior as communication. Participants will develop an understanding of behavioral functions and consider how developmental needs, communication differences, and environmental factors influence behavior in early childhood settings.

Session 3: Designing from the Start: UDL and Reducing Barriers for Early Learners

Rather than waiting for children to struggle and responding afterward, educators can intentionally design environments that reduce barriers before they emerge. This session introduces Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and focuses on creating multiple ways for children to access learning, engage with activities, and express understanding. Participants will identify predictable barriers and develop strategies for creating more flexible and responsive learning experiences.

Session 4: Proactive Behavior Supports and Classroom Systems that Work

Early learning environments rely on predictable routines, relationships, and supportive structures. This session focuses on practical approaches for reducing challenging behaviors through proactive supports, classroom systems, and responsive adult practices. Participants will explore strategies that strengthen engagement, increase independence, and create environments where children can be successful.

Session 5: Turning Ideas into Action: Creating Inclusive Early Childhood Environments

The final session brings together key concepts from the series and focuses on implementation. Participants will apply learning from previous sessions to classroom scenarios and planning activities while designing supports that promote meaningful participation for all children.

