



website: www.dec-sped.org
email: dec@dec-sped.org

address: 3415 S. Sepulveda Blvd. #1100
Los Angeles, CA 90034

telephone: 310-428-7209
fax: 855-678-1989

Lesson plans? State standards? Adaptations? We can help!

*By Emily Dorsey and Natalie Danner, authors of *Adapting Lesson Plans for Preschoolers: Addressing State Early Learning Standards* in YEC's Monograph #16.*

YEC Monograph 16, *Blending Practices for All Children* focuses on blending instructional approaches to meet the needs of children with and without disabilities in inclusive settings. We believe that blending practices means creating a high-quality early childhood environment that merges developmentally appropriate practices with DEC's recommended practices for working with children with special needs. Preschoolers with and without disabilities deserve the types of rich learning experiences that teachers who intentionally plan can provide in inclusive classrooms.

Today's preschool teachers are facing a variety of challenges! Many states have adopted early learning and development standards that teachers must address in their classrooms. Preschool programs are becoming increasingly inclusive, welcoming students with diversity in culture and language, socioeconomic status, and ability level. It can be difficult to provide quality instruction that meets the needs of each and every child while addressing state standards. As former teachers, we recognize that it takes careful planning to meet these goals within the context of a meaningful instructional environment. We decided to write an article that would (hopefully) make the process of lesson planning a little less overwhelming for teachers. Our article, "Adapting Lesson Plans for Preschoolers: Addressing State Early Learning Standards," provides a step-by-step lesson-planning process for teachers to use in inclusive classrooms.

We envision our article becoming a valuable tool for the field of early childhood education. It can be applied in a variety of instructional contexts:

- In higher education settings, faculty can use this article with pre-service or practicing teacher in undergraduate or graduate level seminars and classes.
- In schools, coaches, administrators, and teachers can use this article as part of a book club or in professional learning communities (PLCs).
- Independently, teachers and other early childhood professionals can use this article as a tool to reflect upon their practices.

Early childhood teachers today are on the front lines of inclusion, facing myriad demands. Teachers can greatly benefit from helpful planning resources such as the YEC Monograph. Be sure to grab a copy of Monograph No. 16 at the DEC Conference. It will also be available online at the DEC bookstore starting October 15, 2014.

*By Emily Dorsey and Natalie Danner, authors of *Adapting Lesson Plans for Preschoolers: Addressing State Early Learning Standards* in YEC's Monograph #16.*