

Module 3

Research Connections and Early Childhood Curriculum and Teaching Strategies Worksheet 3.1: Format for Reporting About Research in Curriculum Project

Your Name _____

Course _____

Date _____

As part of the plans for your early childhood or school-age curriculum project, please complete the following worksheet and include in the materials that you submit in class. In these sections, you will summarize research that supports your decisions about the content of your curriculum project and the teaching methods you plan to use. You may search the *Research Connections* Web site and use other resources suggested in class. [Note to faculty: the worksheet would be somewhat more detailed and have more room for student comments; this is just an example]

	Research examples (below, list where you found the information, and also list exact references. Quality is more important than quantity!	Justification on the basis of research evidence (below, briefly describe how this research supports your decisions in this project)
Curriculum content: Please list examples of research that helps to justify why your planned curriculum content is likely to be appropriate and valuable for the children. Then		
Planned teaching methods/strategies: Again, please list your sources and research examples, and then explain why this research helps justify your planned teaching methods.		

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Worksheet 3.2: Research on Early Childhood Curriculum Models

Your Name _____

Course _____

Date _____

The curriculum or program model that you are investigating _____

As discussed in class, your team will begin by searching for research related to a specific curriculum model or curriculum approach, as assigned by your instructor. Your task is to find out whether *Research Connections* has resources on that curriculum, how recent the research is, and what it says. You will dig deeper by then finding resources in which the name of your curriculum is part of the "description" of the resource, not just mentioned anywhere in the report. For those interested in school-age children, you might explore the following program models, for example, LA's BEST or Communities Organizing Resources to Advance Learning (CORAL), or Beacon Centers. Then your team will share its findings with classmates who are investigating other curriculum models.

1. Basic results of your search. Please indicate what search term you used (a search from the home page is fine), and the results.	Search term: Number of results: Number of Peer Reviewed Journal Articles:
2. Recent research. Now sort your results by date (easy to do from the "Search Results" page). Comment on whether there seems to be recent research on "your" curriculum (e.g., the last year or two). How much?	Comments on existence of recent research:
3. "Your" curriculum as a main focus of the research. Now go to "More Search Options," type in the name of the curriculum as your keyword and select "Description" from the scroll menu to the left. Report the results here. Bring this worksheet to class to share with others.	Number of results: Number of Reports and Papers: Brief description of 1-2 of these "targeted" resources (if they exist): Who has conducted the research? Is it the developers of the curriculum, or others?

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Research Connections and Early Childhood Curriculum and Teaching Strategies Worksheet 3.3: Research on a Curriculum Used in Your State or District

Your Name _____

Course _____

Date _____

The curriculum that you are investigating _____

As discussed in class, your state preK, or perhaps your district, or your Head Start program, may have adopted a specific early childhood curriculum. This might be a "comprehensive" curriculum (Creative Curriculum and High/Scope are examples), or it might be a curriculum in language, literacy, math, science, social skills, or some other area. With classmates, you will find research on this curriculum and discuss its relevance to the early childhood programs in which the curriculum is being implemented. For those interested in school-age children, you might explore the following program models, for example, LA's BEST or Communities Organizing Resources to Advance Learning (CORAL), or Beacon Centers.

<p>1. Basic results of your search. Please indicate what search term you used (a basic search from the home page is fine, but be sure to use the exact name of the curriculum), as well as the results.</p>	<p>Search term: Number of results: Number of Peer Reviewed Journal Articles:</p>
<p>2. A closer look. With your teammates, now find and download 2 or 3 resources in which "your" curriculum is actually evaluated. Some may be lengthy but will often have an Executive Summary. Discuss and summarize what was found—did the curriculum seem to produce positive results? Who were the children who were studied? Are they like the children in your program, district, or state?</p>	<p>Comments (also make notes on the documents you have downloaded, and bring to class):</p>
<p>3. From the field. If possible, interview teachers or administrators who are using "your" curriculum (or perhaps</p>	<p>Interview information:</p>

you are using it yourself). Be prepared to report their views in class.

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***Research Connections* and Early Childhood Curriculum and Teaching Strategies**
Worksheet 3.4: Challenges of Practice

Your Name _____ Course _____ Date _____

The "Challenge of Practice" that you are investigating _____

As discussed in class, your team will begin by searching for research related to this challenge of practice. From the question that you're investigating, you will identify some specific words and phrases to use in your search, and you will modify the search to focus in on the most relevant research. You will download selected references in full text and share with the class. You will also discuss this challenge of practice with one or more teachers. All of this work will be summarized in the worksheet, which you will bring to class in preparation for our discussion.

<p>1. Words and phrases used in your search. Please indicate which you started with, and how you refined the search.</p>	
<p>2. Summary of relevant research that your team identified. What were some of the resources close to the top of the results list (remember that the Research Connections process sorts your results for relevance to the search terms you chose)? Summarize on this worksheet and attach 1-2 downloaded full-text documents.</p>	
<p>3. Summary of discussion with practitioners, with comments. What</p>	

did practitioners say about this challenge of practice? How does their experience fit with the research?	
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