Promoting Evidence-Based Practices

Future early childhood professionals must know about and incorporate evidence-based practices into their decision-making. Yet busy faculty members often find it difficult to integrate this knowledge into undergraduate teacher education programs.

The Research Connections Web Site

Child Care and Early Education Research Connections is a free, federally funded Web site offering a comprehensive, up-to-date, and easy-to-use collection of more than 14,000 resources from the many disciplines related to child care and early education. The site allows users to search, refine searches, download full-text resources, analyze data on line, and perform many other tasks important to researchers, policymakers, and education decision-makers.

Research Connections is operated by the National Center for Children in Poverty at the Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, and the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research at the Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, through a cooperative agreement with the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation and the Child Care Bureau, Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families in the U.S. Department of Human Services.

Thank You for Considering These Resources!

The Research Connections web site is an excellent resource for researchers, policymakers, and others. Now early childhood teacher educators can extend these benefits to undergraduate students. Please accept our invitation to try some of these easy-to-use materials. Faculty report that associate degree and baccalaureate students enjoy and benefit from the activities. In the long run we hope that young children will benefit from having teachers who are better able to integrate research knowledge into their own experience and values—the essence of evidence-based practice.

www.researchconnections.org

National Center for Children in Poverty

Mailman School of Public Health
Columbia University
215 West 125th Street, 3rd Floor
New York, New York 10027
Phone: (646) 284-9600
Fax: (646) 284-9623
New Research Connections Modules—Materials to Use in Your Courses

To extend the usefulness of Research Connections, “Teaching Modules” have recently been developed to support the work of early childhood faculty in associate degree and baccalaureate programs.

Results for You and Your Students
The Research Connections activities and assignments will:

- Help you introduce students to the value of research in supporting effective practices and policies.
- Offer a research resource for your students—not as the only source of information, but as one of the easiest to use and most credible.
- Increase your students’ interest and engagement in learning more about current research on key topics in early development and education.

What Will You Find?
This link, www.researchconnections.org/teaching_modules will take you directly to all the materials. There you will find:

- An Introduction for Faculty, with tips to help you use the materials and get the most out of Research Connections’ many features.
- An introductory module for your students, “Welcome to Child Care and Early Education Research Connections!”, that may be used in any course.
- Four modules appropriate to include in courses such as child development; early childhood curriculum; family relationships, and the early childhood profession.

Each module includes between four and eight suggested activities and student worksheets. The modules’ content is specifically aligned with NAEYC’s Standards for Early Childhood Professional Preparation.

An Invitation—Adapt, Mix, and Match
You are welcome to use any and all materials “as is.” However, by downloading the MS Word versions, you may also modify any of the assignments or worksheets to create the best fit with your situation and your students’ needs. Use one, two, or dozens of the activities; mix and match with existing assignments such as curriculum projects, child development case studies, and more.

For More Help and Support
At www.researchconnections.org/teaching_modules, you may sign up for an email list designed for faculty to share their experiences using the materials.

“I enjoyed every activity that was in this module. It made it interesting to be able to practice using such a good research site.”

“Research Connections was a quick and easy way to search for up-to-date research.”