

About the University of Maine Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies (CCIDS)

CCIDS is Maine's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD). UCEDDs facilitate the flow of disability-related information between the university and communities. Centers work closely with people with disabilities, families, state and local government agencies, community providers and others on projects providing training, technical assistance, service, research and information sharing. The focus of this work is on building the capacity of communities to support full lives for all their citizens with disabilities.

Free Resources on Inclusive Early Care and Education

Growing Ideas Tipsheets and Resources for Guiding Early Childhood Practices

These materials offer early childhood and school age care professionals information on a variety of topics in the form of tipsheets, resource pages, and an expanded virtual toolkit. These resources are available at <http://ccids.umaine.edu/resources/ec-growingideas/>

Visual Supports Learning Links and Templates

These resources are intended as a starting point to learn more about visual supports and to offer templates and suggestions to begin creating your own visual support materials. These resources are available at <https://ccids.umaine.edu/resources/visual-supports/>

Maine's Expanding Inclusive Opportunities (MEIO) Early Childhood Settings Inclusion Toolkit

This toolkit was developed by the MEIO initiative, a collaborative effort of the University of Maine Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies, the Maine Department of Education – Child Development Services and the Maine Department of Health and Human Services. This toolkit supports early childhood programs in providing high quality inclusive settings for young children and their families. The MEIO Early Childhood Settings Inclusion toolkit is available at <https://ccids.umaine.edu/resources/inclusion-toolkit/>

Technical Assistance Competencies for Maine's Early Childhood Workforce

The TA Competencies is a resource to support an integrated, cross-system and cross-sector professional development system whose ultimate goal is to provide high quality services to young children and their families. Developed with funding from an Early Head Start/Child Care Partnership Grant to Kennebec Valley Community Action Program. The Technical Assistance Competencies for Maine's Early Childhood Workforce (PDF) is available at <https://ccids.umaine.edu/resources/me-ta-competencies/>



Technical Assistance Competencies for Maine’s Early Childhood Workforce Self-Assessment Checklist (PDF)

A companion document to Technical Assistance Competencies for Maine’s Early Childhood Workforce to assist TA professionals with assessing their skills within the five competency areas (professionalism, principles of adult learning, building relationships, the technical assistance process, and systems knowledge). The Technical Assistance Competencies for Maine’s Early Childhood Workforce Self-Assessment Checklist (PDF) is available at <https://ccids.umaine.edu/resources/me-ta-ec-self-assessment-checklist/>

Parent–Guardian–Family Support

CCIDS offers telephonic and email consultation to parents, guardians or family members seeking information, resources or guidance related to inclusion and special education. CCIDS staff has expertise in a number of areas including special education, autism, positive supports, and inclusive education. Visit the CCIDS website to learn more at <https://ccids.umaine.edu/>

Other Selected CCIDS Projects and Initiatives in Early Childhood

Educare and Beyond

The Educare Implementation Study at the University of Maine is part of a national project that documents the features of Educare Schools. The purpose of the study is to support the mission of Educare, which is a researched-based program that prepares young at-risk children for school and which serves as a platform for quality early learning programming. Additional information can be found at <https://ccids.umaine.edu/research-projects/educare-and-beyond/>



Educare Follow-up Study

The University of Maine has been contracted as a partner in a multi-site effort to conduct follow-up studies of Educare children as they enter kindergarten and progress through the early elementary years. This project is one of six to participate in the “Educare Follow-up Studies” project at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC). More information can be found at <https://ccids.umaine.edu/research-projects/educare-follow-study/>

Kennebec Valley Community Action Program (KVCAP) Professional Development and Consultation

Through a subcontract with KVCAP, CCIDS is providing consultation to the KVCAP Child and Family Services Management Team on the development of their coaching infrastructure; and providing training and consultation to KVCAP coaches through individual coaching sessions and Communities of Practice.



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