

ACTIVITIES

- Assessment of needs and resources
- Expert consultation (on-site, phone, email)
- Information sharing and best practices from priority area workgroups
- Workshops, trainings, video and/or audio conferences
- Opportunities for collaboration and networking through Regional Steering Committees
- Interactive web site



Curriculum and Instruction

Research-based curriculum models are used in programs serving prekindergarten children with disabilities. A focus on language and early literacy skills is a critical component considered in developing instructional programs.

Evaluation and Assessment

Evaluation practices are based on sound principles of practice for young children and are respectful of cultural diversity.

Family Involvement

Development of partnerships and supports for families are critical components for programs serving young children with disabilities.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The TATS is a statewide project which supports programs serving prekindergarten children with disabilities by providing training and technical assistance. The primary recipients of services are the coordinators for programs serving prekindergarten children with disabilities in each of Florida's 67 school districts. The project is based at the University of Central Florida, with field staff working to carry out the TATS mission throughout the state. Facilitators based at each of the nine Professional Development Partnerships (PDP) provide direct services to the districts within their region. A transition consultant provides statewide TA and training on the transition process as part of Florida's Transition Project, a project within TATS.

To ensure participation and coordination with all stakeholders, including districts and other existing state projects, the TATS has created a state advisory board.

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PROJECT PRIORITIES

Inclusion/Continuum of Supports

Opportunities are expanded for serving children with disabilities in settings with typically developing peers.

Program Effectiveness/Quality

District programs evaluate effectiveness and use data to inform program improvements.

Transition

Children exiting Florida Early Steps Program for infants and toddlers with disabilities successfully transition into prekindergarten services for children with disabilities and from pre-kindergarten services into kindergarten.

PRODUCTS

- A calendar of statewide TA activities.
- Resource Bank. This will contain resources in various formats (print, video, etc.) around the six identified priority areas for the grant.
- Interactive Web Site. All information and resources available through TATS are posted on our interactive web site (www.tats.ucf.edu) This site also will offer the opportunity for topic chat rooms, discussion forums and web-based training.